'Palace's Cha-cha moves to extend GMA's tenure'

Story below, Col. 2

Dante Tan stinks up Australian politics

FUGITIVE businessman Dante Tan may have already fled Australia, but he continues to roil Australian politics.

Weeks after the opposition Labor Party criticized Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock, for receiving campaign money from Tan allegedly in exchange for a visa, the ruling Liberal Party struck back.

The other day, it said a senior opposi-

DANTE/ A21

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P15
website: www.inq7.net

Christmas in June for Children's Hour

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The program's theme proved prophetic; it was truly Christmas in June.

The launch of the Children's Hour movement here yesterday, on a stage festooned with the Christmas lanterns Pampanga is famous for, raised an impressive

CHRISTMAS/ A20

Cayetano dies of stomach cancer; 68

Cause of death 'completely different' from liver transplant

By Volt Contreras
and Michael Lim Ubac

"EVERY DAY for us is a treasure, a permanent vacation where little things become important," Sandra, the American-born wife of Sen. Rene Cayetano, told the INQUIRER last June 13.

Twelve treasured days later, her husband succumbed to intra-abdominal cancer, an ailment that one of his sons said was discovered by his doctors in the United States three months after his successful liver transplant in February.

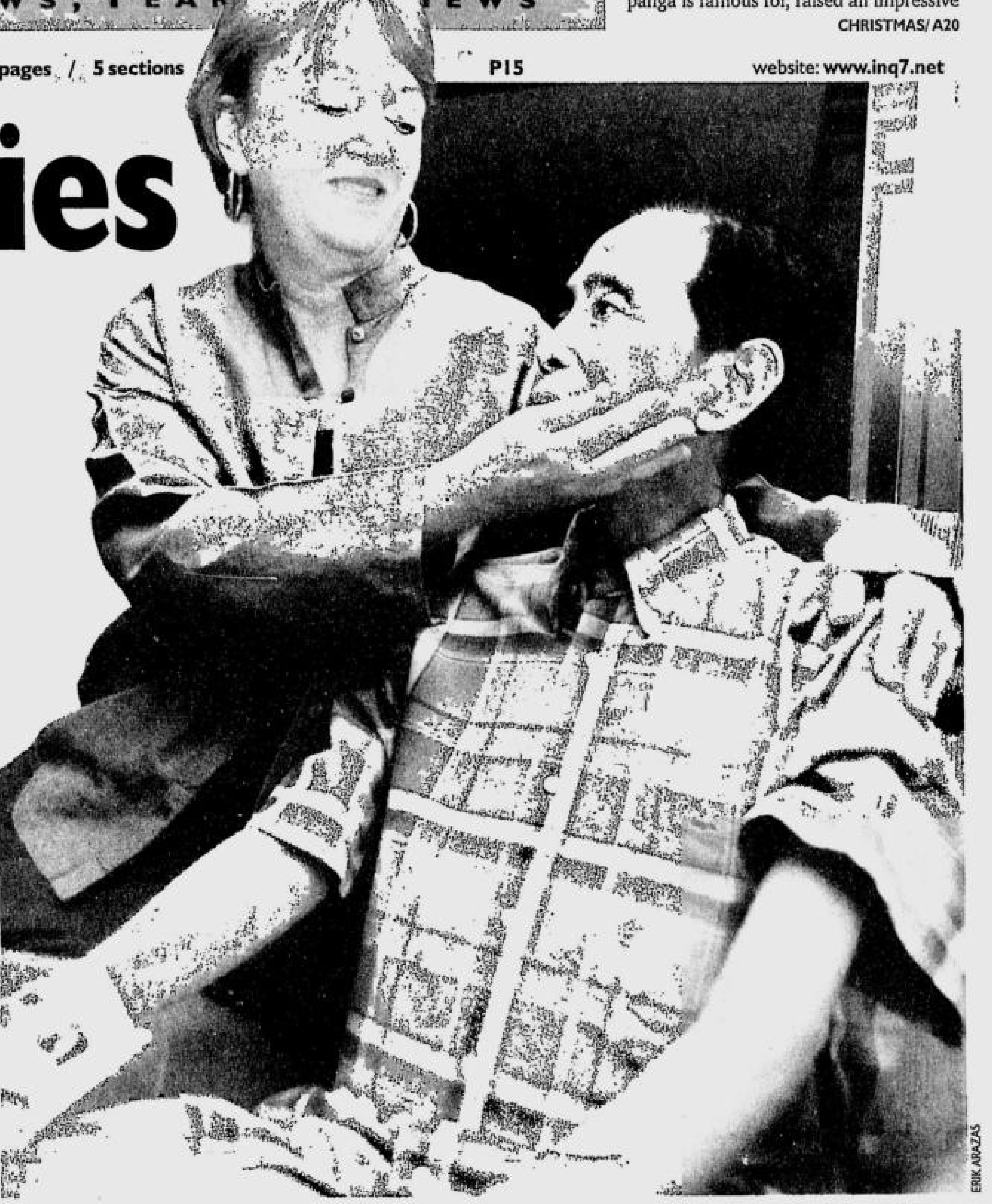
Taguig-Pateros Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano told the INQUIRER by phone that the cause of death was "completely different" and had nothing to do with the liver transplant performed on his father on Feb. 5 at the University of Southern California hospital. The organ donor was the senator's youngest child, Lino, 25.

Allan said his father died peacefully at their home in Ayala Alabang at 3:54 p.m., with members of the family at his bedside. The senator was 68.

Three months after the surgery, doctors discovered "a number of tumors in his abdomen," Allan said. He said his father was diagnosed as afflicted with intra-abdominal cancer and subsequently treated in the Philippines.

Cayetano returned to Manila on June 5 after an eight-month stay in the United States, half of which he spent waiting for a liver

CAYETANO/ A20



ERIK ARAZAS

LIVING and loving and being loved back exceedingly well by his family who was there for him to the very end. Sen. Rene Cayetano was photographed with his American-born wife Sandra on June 13 in their Ayala Alabang residence.

'Dirty Harry' warned: No 'untouchables' here

By Christian V. Esguerra,
Jerome Aning
and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE HEAD of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency has warned former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, the new presidential adviser on illegal drugs, against forming a select group of "untouchables" in the government's renewed anti-drug campaign.

"There should be no independent moves here," PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. told the INQUIRER yesterday. "All actions must be coordinated with the PDEA. That's what the law says."

Avenido has been somehow shoved into the sidelines with the appointment of Lim as presidential adviser and the informal designation of Barbers as the anti-drugs czar.

The senator, who had offered to resign so he could lead the fight against illegal drugs, has oversight functions over the PDEA as chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs.

It was Barbers who recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo that Lim, dubbed by his critics and admirers alike as "Dirty Harry," be named presidential adviser. Barbers also wants ex-Col. Rey Jaylo and ex-Maj. Lucio Margallo appointed as directors for special operations of the PDEA. Barbers, Lim, Jaylo and Margallo are former members of Manila's Western Police District who employed strong-arm tactics against drug syndicates in the 1990s.

An official of the PDEA said naming Jaylo and Margallo as PDEA directors could pose "organizational problems" in the agency.

The PDEA has no special operations groups to accommodate Barbers' former comrades at the Manila Police, the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

"What we have is the special enforcement service which can

DIRTY/ A18

Barbers' bailiwick drug haven, says report

By Franklin A. Caliguid,
Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Michael Lim Ubac
in Manila

SURIGAO CITY, bailiwick of Sen. Robert Barbers, the anti-drug czar, has emerged as one of the drug havens in the Caraga region, according to a police report.

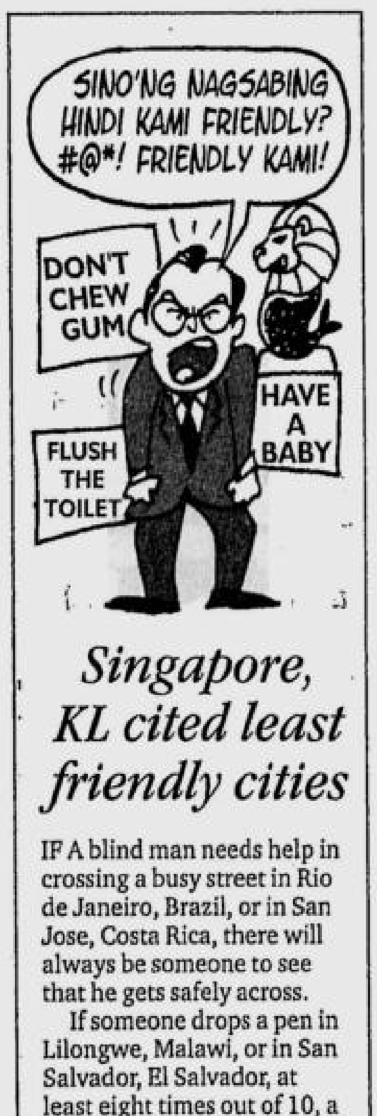
Barbers and Anselmo Avenido Jr., Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief, are contesting the report.

The report, recently made public by regional police officials, showed that illegal drugs were rampant in at least 60 percent (30 out of 54) of barangays in Surigao City, making it the biggest drug haven in the region after Butuan.

Of the 1,313 barangays in Caraga, 122 villages are drug affected, according to the report. Police have identified at least 237 "big-time pushers" and at least seven drug financiers operating in the region, which is composed of the provinces of Agusan del Sur and del Norte, Surigao del Sur and del Norte, and the cities of Surigao and Butuan.

In Tiaong, Quezon, President

BARBERS/ A18



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Singapore, KL cited least friendly cities

IF A blind man needs help in crossing a busy street in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, or in San Jose, Costa Rica, there will always be someone to see that he gets safely across.

If someone drops a pen in Lilongwe, Malawi, or in San Salvador, El Salvador, at least eight times out of 10, a stranger will pick it up and return it to its owner.

But that's not the case in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Residents of these

SINGAPORE/ A21

Farmers see tobacco take up in smoke

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Norman Bordadora
in Manila

VIGAN CITY—Tobacco farmers in the Ilocos view Republic Act No. 9211 (or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003) as another burden to carry.

Carlos Cachola, president of the 250-member Philippine Association of Tobacco-Based Cooperatives, said it would result in a 20-percent reduction in crop production in the next season, on top of the existing problems of low selling prices and a growing inventory of unsold produce.

"The farmers will immediately lower their target by around 20 percent and may even reduce it

FARMERS/ A18

HERE'S MUD IN YOUR EYE

JOAN BONDOC

Devotees of St. John the Baptist in Barangay Bibiclat, Aliaga, Nueva Ecija, observe his feastday on Tuesday by covering themselves with mud and wearing mud-drenched capes made of banana leaves. The ancient and traditional rites celebrate Jesus' baptism by John who used mud. *(Story in Across the Nation, Page A16)*

'Palace's Cha-cha moves to extend GMA's term'

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Carlito Pablo

THE ADMINISTRATION'S bid to amend the Constitution is another attempt to extend President Macapagal-Arroyo's term, according to one who is privy to the Palace plans.

Jose Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines and a member of the 40-man study group organized by the Palace last year to push for changes in the Charter, said yesterday.

He added that Malacañang and its allies in the House were determined to revise the Charter this year to shift to a parliamentary form of government.

But Abueva, who is himself pushing for Charter change, said the administration's plans did not amount to serious political reform.

"In effect they just want to remove the term limit (on the presidency)," he told the INQUIRER.

Abueva closely coordinates with the study group formed by Secretary Norberto Gonzales and with Speaker Jose de Venecia, the main proponent of Charter change.

"If you want to make constitutional reforms, you have to redesign institutions. Don't think of personalities," Abueva said.

"But if you're trying to tailor changes to benefit certain individuals and parties, you're not doing much good," he added.

Abueva said he found that De Venecia and Gonzales, notwith-

PALACE'S/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/25/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Salamat to sign final accord

By TJ Burgonio

MORO rebel chief Salamat Hashim will not participate in peace negotiations between the government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front but will sign any future peace agreement that would result from the resumption of the stalled talks, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said yesterday.

Kabalu denied a statement released by Malacañang yesterday saying that Salamat was "ready to lead the peace negotiations" for the MILF following informal talks between the two sides in Malaysia this week.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government and the MILF were "now reentering the peace talks mode" and were working on a "timeline that will begin with the approval of parameters for the formal talks, the start of the talks and the conclusion of the talks."

"We have agreed that Chairman Salamat Hashim will lead the MILF in the negotiations, be present in key stages of the negotiations, including the opening and closing ceremonies, be fully responsible for all the actions and decisions of the MILF panel, and sign the final peace agreement," Bunye said in the Palace statement.

He said the Cabinet oversight committee on security had concluded at a meeting yesterday that based on communications from Salamat, the MILF appeared ready to "move forward to a negotiated political settlement beginning with a ceasefire."

Back-channel talks

However, the committee stressed that contacts with the MILF were still limited to "exploratory back-channel talks," Bunye said, quoting the committee.

The Agence France Presse reported that the MILF had confirmed the Malacañang communique in a separate statement.

"Chairman Salamat Hashim is ready to lead the peace negotiation of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in order to sign the peace agreement with the government of the Republic of the Philippines for the final settlement of the armed conflicts and the Bangsamoro problem," the AFP quoted from the MILF statement.

But in a telephone interview, Kabalu said the MILF central committee had decided against Salamat sitting as chief negotiator. The MILF peace panel will be headed by Ebrahim Murad, the vice chair for military affairs, he said.

"In the rules and procedures in the conduct of negotiations, it's the mandate not the personality that's important. Even if you put (Chief Justice Hilario) Davide, if he has no mandate, the talks would amount to nothing," he said.

But should a final peace agreement be reached, Salamat would act as the chief signatory for the MILF to ensure that the accord was binding, he said.

"He will be the one to sign the final peace agreement, that's a given," Kabalu said.

Blueprint for peace

Earlier yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was taking steps to stabilize Mindanao, having earlier rejected a temporary ceasefire offered by the MILF.

"The government is preparing a blueprint for stabilizing the situation on the ground, effecting the speedy return of evacuees to their homes and (jump-starting) the peace negotiations," she said in a statement without elaborating.

MILF rebels have been observing a temporary truce and have called on the government to call off military operations against MILF units blamed for a series of deadly bombings and raids in the region since March.

The President has urged the MILF to do more by renouncing alleged links to foreign terrorist organizations. She said that formal talks could not resume until the MILF hands over the bombing suspects.

Amid the tough rhetoric, Ms Macapagal has quietly sent a high-level government mission to Malaysia for informal talks aimed at brokering a ceasefire.

She acknowledged "the clamor for a ceasefire among those affected by conflict" as well as the "cry for justice among the victims of terrorism."

"It is the job of government to keep an even keel and balance out these imperatives," she said.

The military, meanwhile, reported that it had recovered high-powered firearms and ammunition from the site of a clash between soldiers and MILF rebels in Kabuntalan, Maguindanao on Sunday.

Army troops from 6th Infantry Division recovered a 60-mm mortar, a rocket-propelled grenade, five rounds of ammo for rocket-propelled grenades, five fuses, five timing pins and a liquefied petroleum gas tank while conducting clearing operations in Barangay Payan on Monday, said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala.

Army soldiers had the day before clashed with suspected MILF rebels in the area, which resulted in the killing of one rebel and the seizure of two huge caches of C4 explosives.

Kabalu denied that the MILF had C4 in its arsenal and countered that C4 was not commercially available and was part of the military's arsenal. *With a report from Carlito Pablo and AFP*

'Developmental' role eyed for US in peace talks

By Gil Cabacungan

ERMITA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants the United States to play a "developmental" role in the impending peace talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front as the rebels would be looking for material benefits from a peace agreement, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye said at a press briefing yesterday that the President has sent Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser on the peace process and the government chief negotiator, to the US to brief the Washington-based US Institute for Peace think tank which he said has been closely monitoring the peace talks.

Ermita, who left on Sunday, will be in the US for at least a week.

"He is there just to brief them, we don't take orders from them," Bunye said.

The Washington DC-based Institute for Peace is a non-partisan federal institution created by the US Congress in 1984 to promote the prevention, management and peaceful resolution of international conflicts. Its board of directors is appointed by the US President and confirmed by the Senate. It provides education, training, policy development and practical programs of conflict management.

Bunye said that while Malaysia would play the principal role in the talks, the US will have a "supplementary or complementary" role in the development aspect.

"The other side (the MILF) will look for benefits that would accrue to them as a result of the ceasefire and the signing of the final peace agreement," he explained.

He said Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has already sent an invitation to the Malaysian Foreign Minister for his country to act as third party observer.

Bunye said US President George W. Bush has expressed keen interest in the talks with the MILF and that other parties, including opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, "want the US to play an active role in the negotiations."

In his personal website, Pimentel said he was glad that Ambassador Richard Solomon, the president of the US Institute for Peace, has been tapped by the US government to start the process for the US entry as broker for peace in Mindanao. He expected US participation to fast-track the negotiations.

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‘Ask me in November’

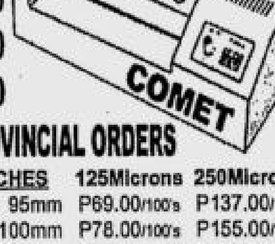
PRESIDENTIAL candidate Raul Roco said he will make his running mate known in November.

In a chance interview in a Makati hotel yesterday, Roco kept mum on his choices.

He would not even say if he would choose a woman.

“November,” he simply told reporters who approached him after his extemporaneous speech before the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines.

The former education secretary was the first to announce that he would run for the presidency next year.



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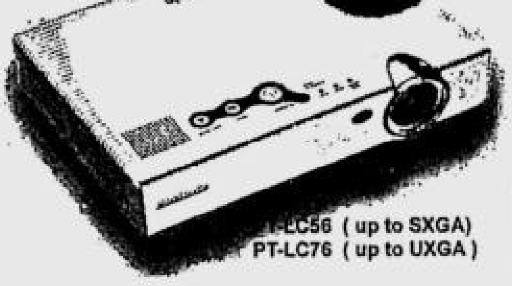

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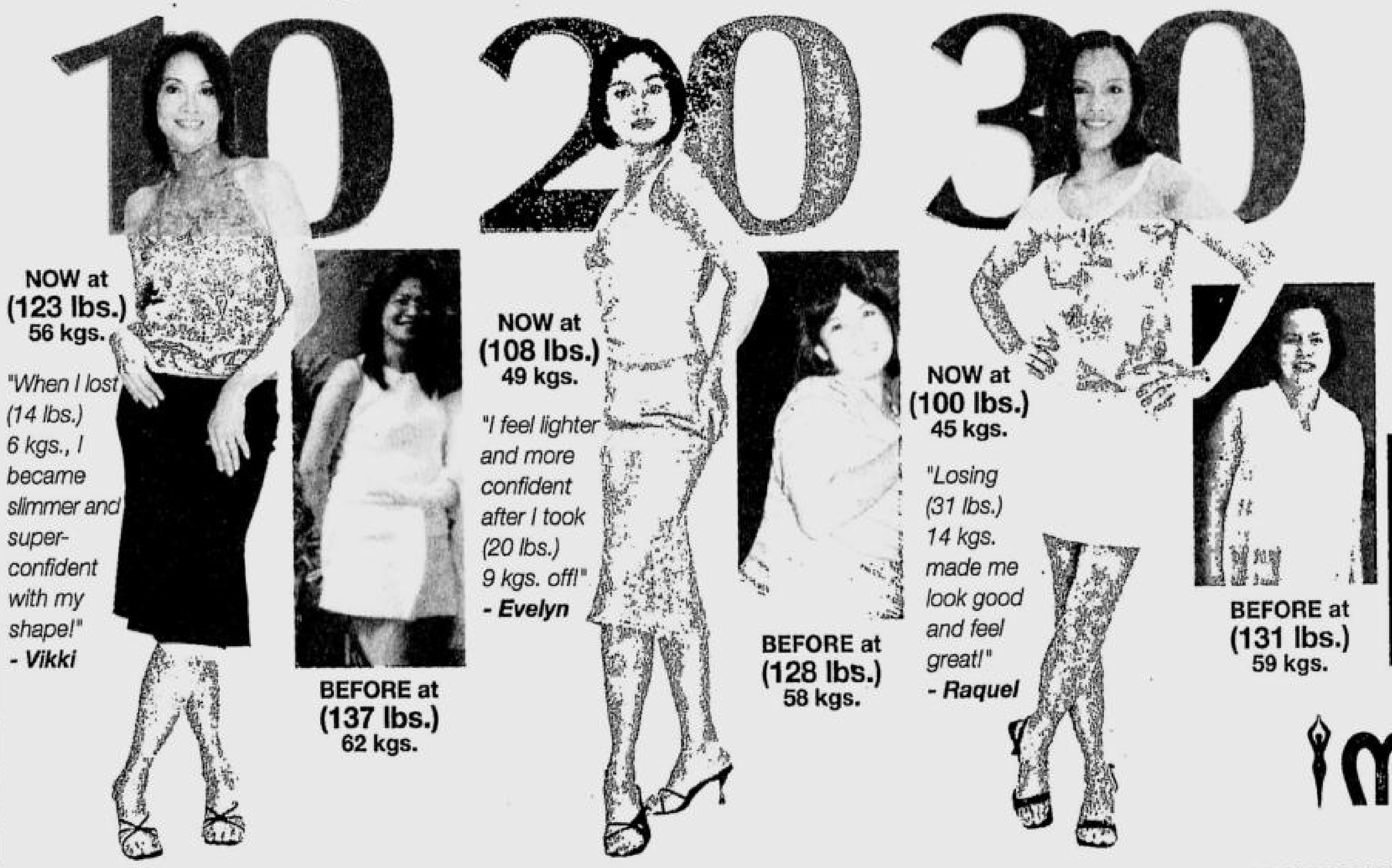

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Fire victims' suit to affect RP seamen, manning firms warn

By Martin P. Marfil

FILIPINO firms which supplied the cruise ship SS Norway with crewmen yesterday warned that a case filed before a US court would adversely affect the local manning industry.

The warning was aired by representatives of Magsaysay Maritime Corp. and CF Sharp during a press conference at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

One of the injured Filipino crewmen, Abdi Comedia, filed a $.11-billion case against his employer, the Norwegian Cruise Line.

An American lawyer, William Hugget, had also informed the manning agencies that he would be representing the next of kin of the deceased crewmembers.

An explosion aboard the SS Norway claimed the lives of seven Filipino seamen on May 25 while the ship was docked in Florida.

Twenty-one others, including seven other Filipinos, were also injured.

According to Doris Magsaysay-Ho, chair and chief executive officer of Magsaysay Maritime Corp., the legal moves in the US are being monitored by other foreign principals.

"Everybody is watching it... the ten (who filed the suit) could affect the whole 200,000, that's the problem," Magsaysay-Ho said.

Both manning agencies maintain that the contracts of the Filipino seafarers, the Migrants Workers Act and a labor department order provide that jurisdiction over money claims shall be resolved by Philippine courts.

And their position had been bolstered by past rulings where foreign courts dismissed cases for lack of jurisdiction, they added in a media brief distributed to reporters.

Erap losing witnesses, say gov't lawyers

By Armand N. Nocum

THE NUMBER of people willing to swear by the innocence of ousted President Joseph Estrada, who is facing plunder charges, appears to be dwindling, and fast.

Prosecution lawyers say this is why Estrada's court-appointed lawyers are resorting to every trick in the book to delay proceedings.

"The way things are going, it's possible that at the end of the month, (there will be) only Erap and (son and co-accused) Jinggoy defending themselves," Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Villa-Ignacio was reacting to the statement of Prospero Crescini, one of Estrada's four lawyers, that they were ready to present at least 10 witnesses.

"What happened to the other 75?" Villa-Ignacio asked, recalling that during the hearings last year before the Sandiganbayan, Estrada's de officio counsels said they had 85 witnesses. Two months ago, he added, this was reduced to 50 "high-impact" witnesses.

"There's no more impact," Villa-Ignacio said, smiling. "They have compacted the witnesses to 10."

The Sandigan Special Division hearing the case has scheduled presentation of evidence by the defense on June 30.

Villa-Ignacio noted that the public was keenly awaiting the announcement of defense witnesses, although he said he doubted that this would happen soon.

The defense lawyers' alleged delaying tactics include a motion to cite former senior special prosecutor Alexander Padilla in contempt; and another by de parte counsel Alan Paguia to dismiss the plunder case for lack of jurisdiction, because Estrada "is still President."

Prosecutors rested their case on April 9, after presenting 76 witnesses and 700 documents which, they said, were enough for a conviction.

Villa-Ignacio theorized that defense witnesses had withdrawn "because they don't want to lie in court." But de officio counsel Noel Malaya said the number had simply been reduced because the case of the prosecution was not strong anyway.

'SC worth dying for'

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court is "worth dying for."

And its justices will always rise in defense against those who seek to bring it down, Chief Justice Hilario Davide said on Monday during memorial services for the late retired SC Justice Sabino "Ben" de Leon Jr.

"We assure you, Justice De Leon, that we will continue your watch," Davide said.

In the audience, apart from De Leon's relatives, were justices of the SC, Court of Appeals, and Sandiganbayan.

De Leon had recently defended the high court from impeachment raps against Davide and seven other justices, and resisted the motion of former President Joseph Estrada's lawyers for SC justices to appear before the Sandiganbayan, on charges that President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation after Edsa 2 was illegal.

Five days before his death on June 16 due to an aneurysm, the late justice was at the SC for its 102nd anniversary celebration. Davide said he would "always remember" the occasion.

Military aid behind RP-US immunity pact, says Guingona

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

CONTINUED military assistance from the United States appears to be the reason for the Philippines' signing a bilateral agreement giving US nationals here immunity from prosecution by the International Criminal Court, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said yesterday.

Guingona said the agreement—under which the Philippines would not be able to surrender US servicemen or nationals charged before the ICC without the consent of the US government—appeared to be an implementation here of a US law, the American Service-Members' Protection Act, or the US Patriot Act.

He said the agreement was tied to US military aid to the Philippines since Section 7007 (a) of the US Patriot Act provides that "no United States military assistance may be provided to the government of a country that is a party to the International Criminal Court."

The US President may, however, waive this prohibition if the country enters into a non-surrender pact with the US.

US President George W. Bush promoted the Philippines into a major non-Nato ally, and vowed to pour in some $356 million in military-related assistance aid when he hosted President Macapagal-Arroyo in a rare state visit to the White House last month.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople concluded the agreement in an exchange of notes with US Secretary of State Colin Powell just before Ms Macapagal left for her Washington visit on May 17.

Human rights groups here have warned that the agreement could be used to protect US troops who commit ordinary crimes in areas under the jurisdiction of the ICC.

"Is it now a matter of national policy that the Philippines obtain foreign military assistance by some coercive process and at the price of abdicating its sovereign choice as to how it will relate to the ICC?" asked Guingona who held the foreign affairs portfolio before resigning over foreign policy differences.

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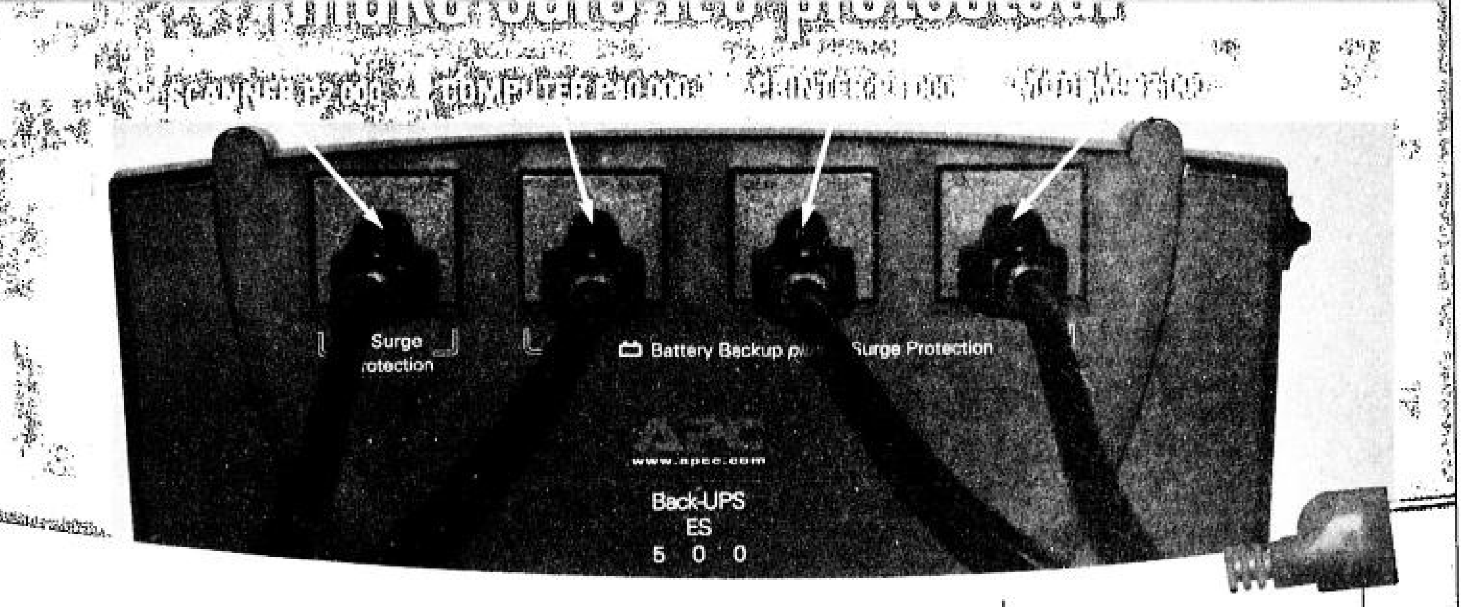

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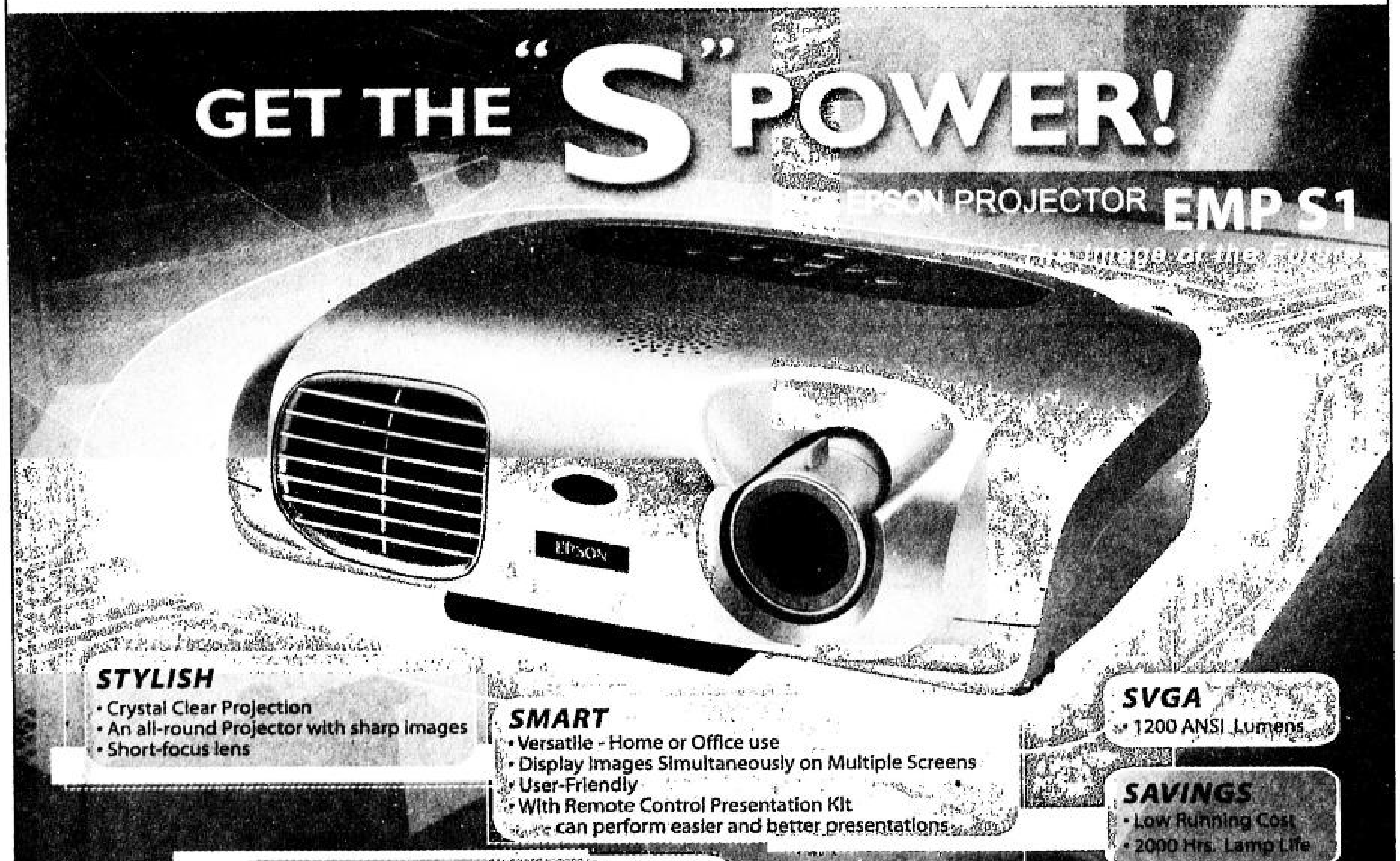

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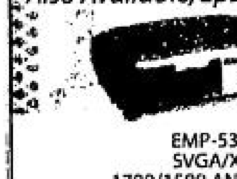
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Budget cut is CARP's biggest woe–Obet

CANDABA, Pampanga—The biggest obstacle to implementing the last phase of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program is the large budget cut by Congress, according to Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan.

Congress allotted only P516 million for the acquisition of private lands this year, Pagdanganan said, when the Department of Agrarian Reform had asked for P3.8 billion.

"There really is a big shortfall in funds," Pagdanganan said in Filipino during an interview after he distributed at least 162 land titles, covering 122 hectares, to 127 farmers in the province.

He admitted that DAR had scaled down this year's distribution target to a minimum of 200,000 hectares.

CARP, on its 15th year since it was launched during the Aquino administration, has given away 5.7 million hectares all over the country.

Pagdanganan said DAR was trying to raise additional funds by maximizing proceeds from the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the utilization of stock from sequestered corporations, and leasehold arrangements on coconut plantations.

Meanwhile, he said, talks with officials of the Land Bank of the Philippines, a government financing institution, were ongoing to strengthen support for CARP.

Asked if he expected dismal results from the last phase of CARP because of the diminishing budget, the DAR chief said: "That depends on the policy makers. If only a few legislators are pro-agrarian reform and the majority want it dead, expect the CARP to be finished before 2008." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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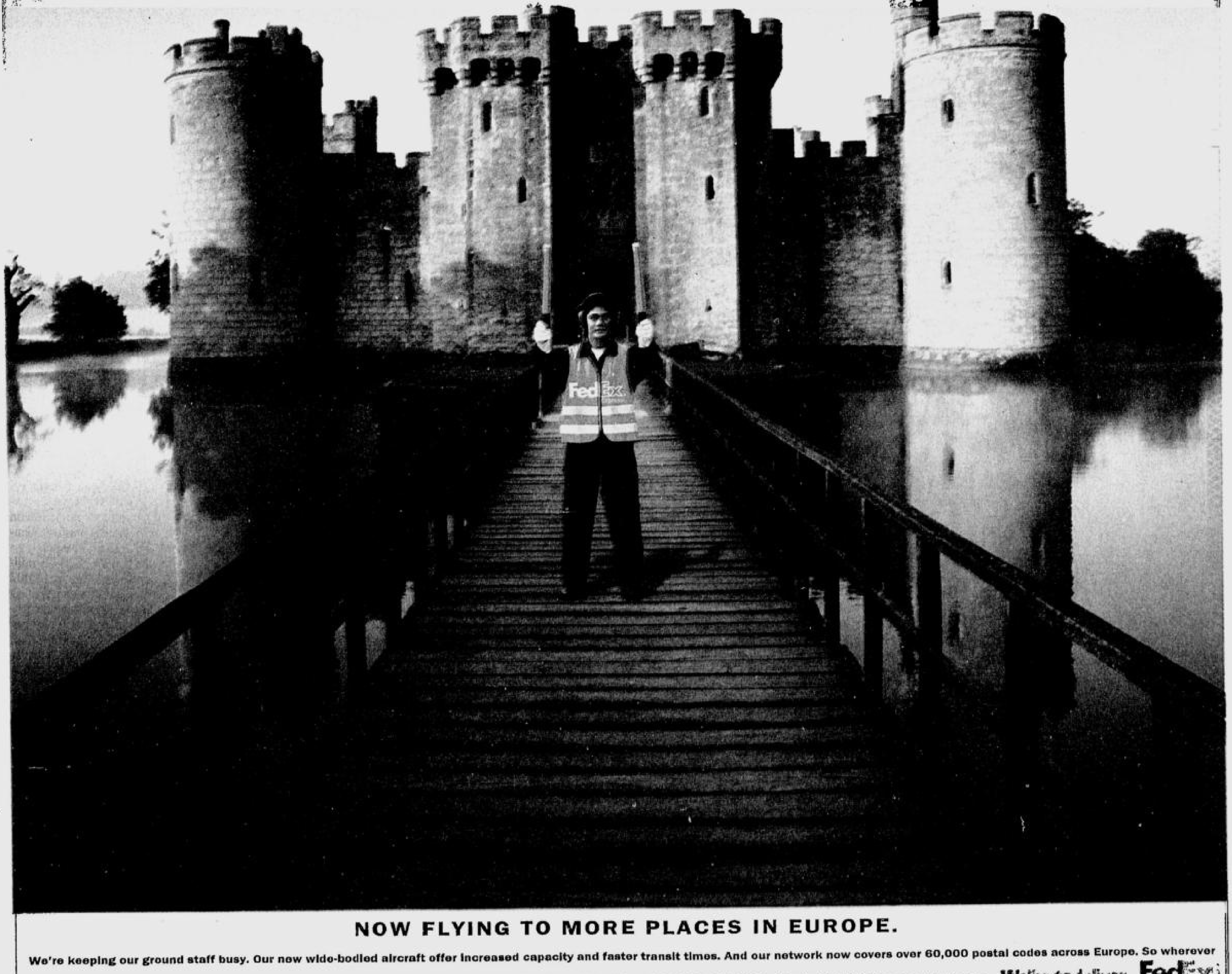

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Media still depict kids as hapless victims, says journalism institute

THERE has been increased newspaper coverage of children's issues and concerns, both good and bad, according to a report of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC).

However, news articles and features still tended to focus on distressing situations in which children figured as hapless victims of criminal and other forms of abuse, the AIJC said.

The report was presented at a seminar on In-Depth Reportage on Children in Cebu City last week by Ramon Tuazon of AIJC.

Tuazon said crime and violence have topped the newspapers' coverage of children for the past two years.

The AIJC report showed that 67 stories on crime and violence on children were written in 2001 but noted very few stories on population, drugs and environment.

Tuazon said 2002 had more coverage of children's issues with a total of 1,515 stories.

But crime and violence still dominated, with 254 of 1,515 stories dealing with the subject. Of these, 238 were news stories, 16 photos and editorial cartoons and one editorial.

No features or in-depth stories and columns were written about children, Tuazon said.

Tuazon said the country's mass media tended to prefer stories that easily lent themselves to a sensational and controversial slant, or the "bad news" which were often written with very little analysis or follow-through.

He noted a bias for events instead of process reporting was another limitation.

He also noted the lack of access to adequate, accurate and timely data or information, lack of child perspective in media articles and the proliferation of tabloids which sensationalize stories on children and women in the country.

Tuazon attributed the increasing media coverage of children's issues to greater appreciation of their newsworthiness as a result of sustained media advocacy by Convention on the Rights of the Child campaigners. *Alan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

It's Arbor Day today

WHILE it can't stop the uprooting of roadside trees that are seen as traffic hazards in Metro Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources marks Philippine Arbor Day today by planting thousands of tree saplings mostly outside the capital.

The main tree planting activity will be in Rizal province, with the DENR leading other government agencies and student groups plant some 25,000 saplings in a 16-hectare stretch in Sitio Pintong Bocaue in San Mateo town.

DENR regional offices will also simultaneously conduct tree planting initiatives in other "strategic" areas like mini-forests, national parks and mangrove areas, Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said yesterday.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

SENATORS: EVERYTHING ACCOUNTED FOR

Ping says he gave up pork after learning it was graft-ridden

SENATE President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Robert Barbers yesterday said that they did use some of their pork barrel funds last year but that these were all properly accounted for.

The administration senators were reacting to an INQUIRER report the other day in which Department of Budget and Management records showed how senators used up their pork barrel allocations for 2002.

Except for Senators Joker Arroyo and Sergio Osmeña III, all the other 22 senators either exhausted or used up a big chunk of the P150-million each in pork barrel funds released to them last year.

Arroyo, who did not touch his pork barrel allocations, refused to comment on the issue.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who was reported as having spent all but P3 million of his allocation, yesterday protested that the INQUIRER story made it appear that he was insincere in his campaign calling for the abolition of the pork barrel system.

In a press statement, Lacson's office said that "it was precisely after using his pork barrel fund allocation in the first two years of his term that he has determined that it is a primary source of graft and corruption."

After this discovery, Lacson said he filed charged graft cases against personnel from the Department of Public Works and Highways in Region 4-A and the Laguna engineering district offices, and two of his own staff members for allegedly taking a cut from his pork barrel projects.

He said he has given up his pork barrel funds for good starting this year.

Drilon said he gave P100 million allocation to the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the construction of 500 school rooms all over the country. The chamber has so far constructed 300 school rooms "at the cost of 50 percent of standard government cost."

Barbers furnished a list that showed his P102 million pork barrel went to construction of farm-to-market roads, provincial jails, municipal and provincial roads, school rooms and school buildings, among other projects.

Christine Avendaño

NOTICE of CHANGE of NAME

Notice is hereby given for the change of name of Ms. Velasco from **ARVY VELASCO** to **MA. ARVY VELASCO**, legitimate daughter of Mr. Rodolfo Velasco and Mrs. Virginia Isaga, who was born on July 16, 1974 at Taytay, Rizal.

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THE LANDMARK

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Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

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OPINION

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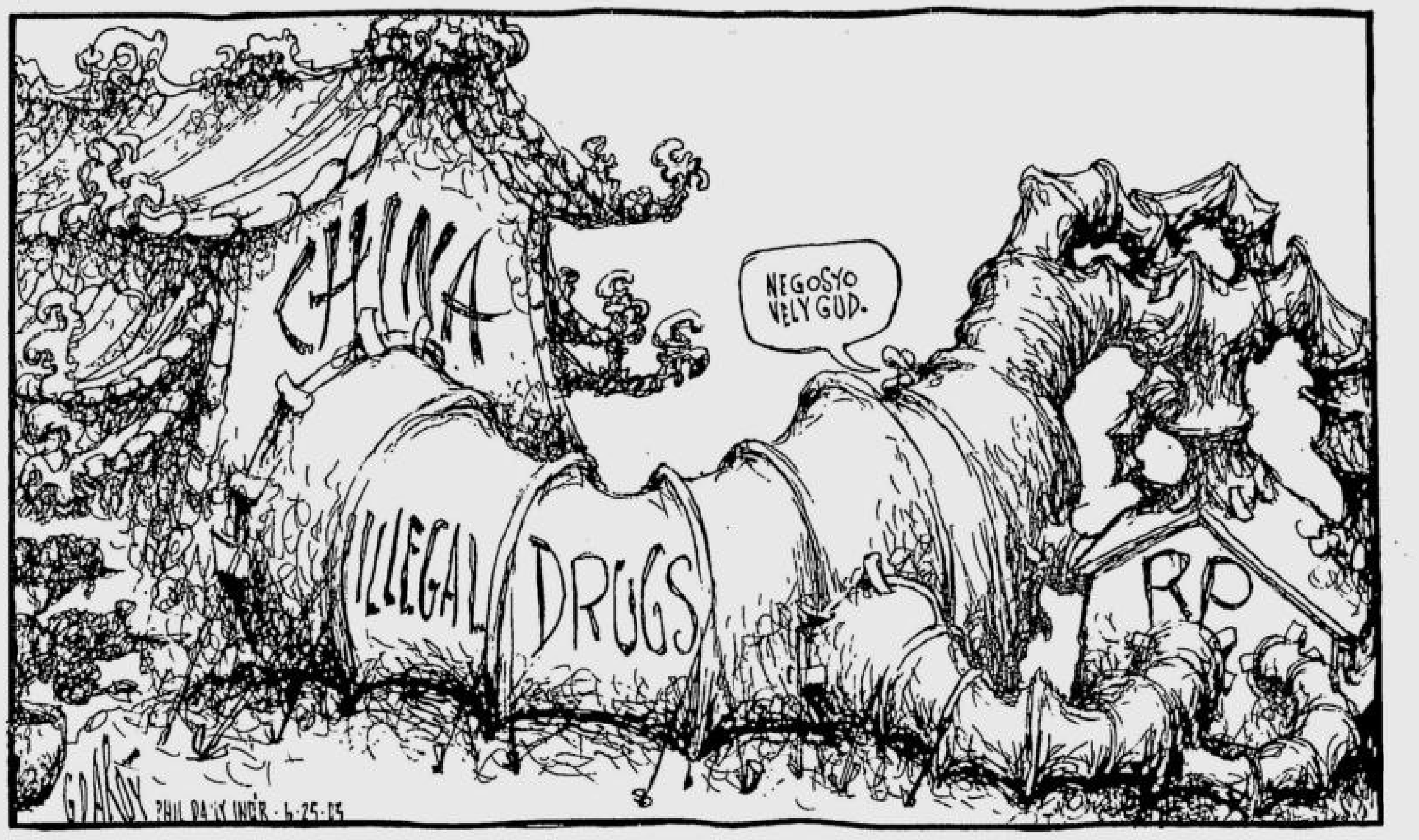

Get real

EDITORIAL

HOW serious is the Macapagal administration in looking for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Mindanao? Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel doubts Malacañang's sincerity, saying it was setting "impossible" conditions for the resumption of peace negotiations. He cited in particular the demand of the administration to have Salamat Hashim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, sit as head of the MILF negotiating panel, without first seeking the lifting of the warrant of arrest issued by a court in connection with the recent bombings in Davao City.

That is only one instance where the government appears to be throwing roadblocks to negotiations even as it talks about drawing up a "road map" to peace. In the last three weeks or so, the MILF has made two unmistakably conciliatory gestures toward the government. The first was the declaration of a 10-day unilateral ceasefire, which was later extended to 20 days. The second was the renunciation of terrorism by Salamat and his denial of any links between the MILF and terrorist organizations anywhere. Regrettably, both overtures have been spurned by the administration.

The unilateral ceasefire, which began early this month, was rejected by the government on the grounds that the separatist rebels would use the lull in fighting to regroup as well as acquire fresh arms and supplies. The government insisted that if there was going to be any ceasefire, it should be a "permanent" one, a rather queer condition since that is precisely what the peace negotiations are supposed to achieve. In other words, if the rebels agreed to a "permanent ceasefire," what would be left for negotiators to talk about? Still despite sporadic clashes, mostly initiated by government troops, the period showed a marked decrease in armed encounters between government and rebel forces.

Over the weekend, Salamat fulfilled one of the major preconditions set by the government for restarting the stalled peace talks. First, he denied any links between the MILF and international terrorist organizations like Jemaah Islamiyah and al-Qaida. Then he reiterated his group's "condemnation and abhorrence of terrorist tendencies," saying that terrorism was "anathema to the teachings of Islam."

The Salamat statement was immediately greeted by a chorus of approval from everyone who had anything to do with the Mindanao peace process—except President Macapagal-Arroyo. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes described it as "a big step toward confidence building." The chief government peace negotiator, Presidential Adviser Eduardo Ermita, said Salamat's renunciation of terrorism was welcome. "We are moving toward peace," said former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Renato de Villa, who now serves as an adviser to the peace panel.

But it looks as if only the MILF is taking the necessary steps toward that goal. Instead of welcoming Salamat's decision to fulfill one of her major conditions for the resumption of talks, the President has imposed another one. The MILF, she said, must now "cut clean by deed from terrorists, purge its armories of terrorist weapons and engage in earnest peace talks shorn of deception." Bunye said the President's "calibrated response" to Salamat's announcement was dictated by the discovery of two huge caches of explosives believed to belong to the MILF. The stockpile of explosives has been cited by military officials as proof that the MILF was planning more terrorist bombings.

The case linking the MILF to local and regional terrorist organizations is being established rather quickly by the testimony of self-confessed terrorists now on trial for the Rizal Day bombing of the LRT more than two years ago and the Bali bombing last year. And it is very likely that to the MILF this lends greater urgency to restarting the peace talks.

But what more can the MILF really do to convince the President of its earnest to return to the negotiating table? After renouncing terrorism, how does it "cut clean by deed from terrorists"? How can it be expected to "purge its armories of terrorist weapons" when it might need those explosives if the talks fail? It is almost like saying the MILF rebels should first lay down their arms before peace talks resume. Without winning the war and with very slim prospects of ever doing so, the government wants to dictate the terms of surrender.

Despite all the setbacks the MILF has suffered lately, the administration would be making a grave mistake if it thinks victory is at hand. It's time to get real.

Doctors: PBA drug tests accurate; LTO tests not so

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

HOW accurate and credible are the drug tests for cagers in the Philippine Basketball Association and for drivers in the Land Transportation Office? Pretty good in the first and not so good in the second, according to doctors during the health forum yesterday at Annabel's in Quezon City. The PBA tests are done by the Department of Health and Philippine National Police laboratories and are foolproof; the LTO tests are done by 1,200 private laboratories accredited by the LTO and are not closely monitored by the government.

The basketball players undergo two tests: screening and confirmatory. The screening test screens urine samples for traces of drugs. When a sample turns positive, it undergoes a second, confirmatory test at the PNP laboratory. The second test separates all the ingredients in the drug found in the sample. If there is any banned drug among these ingredients, then that sample is labeled "positive."

No one knows to whom any particular urine sample belongs except the PBA doctor. It is identified by code and only after the results are in is the code matched to the urine donor's identity. There cannot be any switching of names or samples or false labeling, therefore, what would anyone gain by doing that?

As for the LTO testing, samples also undergo a second confirmatory test after the screening test turns positive. But the samples are not coded and the donors of the samples can be identified and can be switched. Besides, the private laboratories are there for profit and are more lax than the government laboratories. Worse, some employees of the private laboratories "can be bribed" to come up with negative results even if they are positive. Or to speed up work because of laziness and the huge volume of applicants, they just automatically fill up the forms with negative findings just as medical certificates for workers applying for jobs abroad are faked.

In fact, the doctors revealed that the DOH has found many "deficiencies" in the processing of papers of many private laboratories. "We are correcting these deficiencies," the DOH doctor said.

In short, the LTO tests are not foolproof in detecting those applicants who took drugs. Neither, for that matter, are those applying for licenses for firearms. While it is not likely that those who are "clean" will be given "positive" results, it is very likely that those who actually turn "positive" will ultimately be given "negative" findings—all for various considerations.

In other words, the LTO tests are next to useless in weeding out applicants who had taken drugs before their urine samples were taken.

The doctors emphasized, however, that those found "positive" in the screening are not necessarily addicts or habitual users. The tests can't determine that. It just means that the applicant had taken the banned drug a few days before he gave his urine sample.

Why then, are drug tests being continued when they are neither foolproof nor credible?

Reply: "Because the law mandates testing. But in time, we will be able to make them foolproof and credible."

So it is possible that there are drug users being issued licenses to drive and own guns or certificates making them eligible for jobs overseas.

* * *

Even before Sen. Robert Barbers and his team can start going after the drug syndicates, people are already finding fault with them including, of all people, the president of the Senate and the chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) who are supposed to be in the forefront of the anti-drugs campaign.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Barbers cannot remain a senator while holding an executive position. PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido does not like Barbers being called the "anti-drug czar." The PDEA, he said, is the top agency in the anti-drug drive and he is the top banana in the PDEA.

In short, this early, there is already a war for turf and title, the same war that had engulfed the Office of the Press Secretary when former Rep. Nani Braganza was appointed to it and he and his retinue descended upon it with their wings spread out. Braganza now deserves a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the Philippine press secretary with the shortest service. Even that is hardly accurate because Braganza never even got to serve at all.

Now then, to avoid this intramural over titles, while calling Barbers the "anti-drug czar," why don't we call Avenido the "anti-drug king," and the head of the Dangerous Drugs Board the "anti-drug emperor"? That should make everybody happy.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Because of Bishops Bacani and Yalung, members of the clergy are now the butt of jokes. This is one of them, but don't forget that this is only a joke:

A priest was baptizing a baby held on the bosom of a sweet young thing. Sprinkling holy water on the head of the baby, the priest commented: *"Hmmm, malambot yata ang bumbunan ng baby."*

Woman: *"Hindi po bumbunan ng bata 'yan. Boobs ko 'yan.*

Faces

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

CORAZON "Dinky" Soliman, the social welfare chief, has a plea for the media. That is for them to not just see the facts and figures but the names and faces of the victims of the war in Mindanao.

"The evacuation centers are the most blatant consequence of the un-peace in Mindanao, and behind the numbers and statistics are faces and unique lives. The media tend to focus only on the body count." The picture would not be complete, she says, without reporting what the conditions in the refugee centers are. Specifically what the Department of Social Welfare and Development has been doing for the refugees and what the refugees are doing for themselves.

The DSWD in particular has been looking into the needs of the evacuees with consistency, initiative and great cultural sensitivity. Its aim has been to make life "at least 75 percent normal in the camps," and it has succeeded marvelously in doing that.

I know Dinky to live up to her name, Corazon, and be all heart. I know her not to take her duties lightly but to apply herself to a task at hand with the zeal and enthusiasm of the convert. I have little doubt the DSWD has been looking after the current victims of war better than at any time in the past. I do not know if the caregivers in the refugee camps are providing only *halal* food to their wards, but I believe our story last Monday which said they have taken care not to include pork in the refugees' diet in consideration of their Islamic beliefs.

But all this merely serves to drive home the point about what's wrong with the war in Mindanao. All this merely serves to highlight the monumental scourge that is Dinky's boss' splendid little war in an island she barely knows.

To begin with, it's funny that Dinky should beg the world see the faces of the victims of that war. That I can agree with 100 percent. I've always thought the first casualty of George W. Bush's "war against terror," a war Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has embraced like Moses receiving the tablets at Mt. Sinai—or indeed more than that, Moses had no choice and did so with humble surrender, GMA has done so with utter glee—has been the faces of its victims. Or at least of the "enemy." It is a war that blots out the names and faces of those who die in the hands of the modern-day Crusaders while regaling the world with every detail of the lives lost by the Crusaders and their tribe.

It is a war that bids us remember each individual who lost his life in the World Trade Center, each firefighter who risked his life to save those trapped in the rubble, each cop who carried on beyond the line of duty to bring a fitful peace to a bedraggled city. But it is a war that bids us forget the names of those attending a wedding procession in Afghanistan who perished from an attack by an American plane. It is a war that bids us forget the faces of the men, women and children huddled in bunkers, or foraging for food or medicine in the streets of Baghdad, who got blown to bits by cluster bombs. It is only now that the body count in Iraq is being made, never mind the faces. As of last count, it was more than double the dead in 9/11. There is no likelihood the world will ever know or remember them.

There, true enough, I blame media, too. Fox has been an active conspirator in that crime and CNN not an unwilling participant.

It's the same thing in Mindanao. By all means let us see the faces of the victims of the war there. That doesn't mean only those who languish in evacuation centers, who themselves are not having the time of their lives enjoying free board and lodging but chafing at the leash. That means those who have been driven out of their homes and fields by bombs and mortar fire. That means those who sleep fitfully at night fearing their homes will one day be gutted or toppled by fire and bullets and their loved ones consumed by the conflagration. That means the enemy themselves who have been rendered faceless by that all-embracing, and all-erasing, word "terrorist."

The war in Mindanao is a cynical war pursued for cynical ends, which is to help one person cling to power. GMA says she is making tough decisions, but there is nothing tough in exploiting the two worst, though widespread, biases of Filipinos, which are their love for Americans and their hatred for Moros. The MILF is no more a terrorist organization than the CIA. Though that is probably wrong because the CIA is more arguably a terrorist one. That is not to romanticize the MILF. Many of them are bastards who do not mind exploiting and oppressing their own people. But that is not a reason to extirpate them.

I appreciate what Dinky is doing as head of the DSWD. But to ask us to commiserate with the victims of the war in Mindanao while saying nothing about how and why they have been victimized, that I cannot appreciate. To ask us to see their bloodied faces—which isn't always metaphorical—while saying nothing about how and why they have been bloodied, that I cannot appreciate. What that does is to argue loudly, if implicitly, that GMA is right to call the MILF terrorist and unleash Angelo Reyes' hordes upon their hapless tribe. That I cannot appreciate.

The point is not to be culturally sensitive enough to not give the refugees pork, the point is to be culturally sensitive enough to not make them refuges at all. The point is not to be solicitous enough to wean the children away from the culture of war by giving them toys of peace, the point is to be solicitous enough to wean them away from violence by giving them peace. The point is not to be humane enough to allow them to live as near a normal life as possible, the point is to be humane enough to allow them to live, period.

Unless of course our concept of peace and progress is to turn Muslim Mindanao into one vast refugee camp.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

May and reunions

HIGH BLOOD

Vilma Regidor Taroy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

THE MONTH of May is always a festive one with the santacruzans, the beauty pageants, the swimming parties, the excursions, etc. For Agnesians, this is a month to look forward to. It is during the first Sunday of May that a general reunion is held at St. Agnes' Academy in Legazpi City.

For High School Class of 1953, the golden jubilarians, it was a time to look back to, to get connected, to relive all those childhood memories that had been locked for 50 years.

It is said that every second of our life is stored in some corner of our brain. It is hard to find the right key to unlock our memories but sometimes it happens. Some event, a word, a melody, a picture and the stored memories come flooding back. For us, golden jubilarians, the key to our memory box was May 4, 2003, our coming home to our alma mater.

And so we came, all 34 of us. Traveling from various points of the compass, across the miles, despite the SARS advisory, they came—Monse, Chony, Nimia, Rosita, Cora; from Metro Manila came Pacit, Puring, Maritere, Auring, Begsy, Carmina, Nellie, Willy, Dolly B. and myself; those in Bicol were Mely, Arlene, Tita, Emy, Caring, Ma. Vilma, Chit O., Chit D., Dolly M., Deling, Sis Sixta, Violeta, Flora, Maria, Juliana, Cecilia, Edith and Mila.

Confusion was mirrored in the faces of those who had not been "home" for the past 50 years. There was an embarrassing silence as we came face to face with classmates whom we had not seen for five decades. We shrieked in delight, however, when we were able to identify them.

Despite the eye bags, the stooped shoulders, the hollowed cheeks, the double chin, the dowager's hump, silver streaks underneath well-coifed hair, thick waistlines, legs laced with varicose veins, cellulite snuggled in flabby arms and thighs, there remained a familiar glow of recognition behind the shy smile and the warm hug.

A collage of our "then and now" pictures artistically created by Mely, our class president, was strategically displayed in her ancestral home.

And starting May 1 we were busy as we joined the rehearsals for our dance number, had getting-to-know-you-again parties, spent a refreshing day at the beach, attended a Mass for classmates who had gone ahead and had endless photo sessions.

We were once again 14- and 15-year-olds lining up in the school grounds under the watchful eyes of the Benedictine nuns; spending quiet moments in the chapel poring over pocketbooks by Emilie Loring; cheering wildly for our volleyball team. And those who lived in the school dorm, the "internas," had additional stories to share. They finally admitted having crushes on their handsome classmates, of throwing pebbles at the windows of our school chaplain, Fr. Jose Sanchez, now a cardinal in Rome. We even wanted to discover what was underneath the sisters' veil—cropped hair or shaved head? And how can we ever forget Sis Irmburg, tall and pretty with a perennial blush on her cheeks?

We forgot that some of our classmates lived in plush villages or occupied high positions in their respective fields of endeavor. Husbands, children, grandchildren were mentioned in passing. All that mattered was the four years of unbridled joy when, from fresh-faced, giggly teenagers, we blossomed into ladies in pleated, crisp, white and blue uniforms.

Our trainor, Arlene, almost gave up on us during our practice sessions. For how could one teach 66, 67, 68-year-olds to do half turns and full turns, shake the shoulders, move sidewise or diagonally and count rhythmically 1, 2, 1, 2 ,3 without getting dizzy?

Gold, with its lovely yellow color and soft metallic glow, permeated how our batch looked and filled our senses as we entered the school grounds for the motorcade, the thanksgiving Mass and the program.

After lunch we had the batch presentations by the jubilarians: sapphire, pearl, silver, ruby, gold and emerald.

We changed into our costume: a long black skirt topped by a gold blouse with sheer sleeves cascading with red, yellow and black.

As we stood on stage waiting for the first chord of music to start our dance, we the golden jubilarians, all senior citizens, felt a deep sense of exhilaration, of belonging to one large and happy family.

And in those fleeting moments we forgot the aches in our rheumatic joints, the throbbing pain of bunions, the frozen shoulder, the shortness of breath, blurred vision, the trembling fingers, the incessant buzzing in the ear as we kept pace with the fast and frenzied beat of the conga.

The shouts of admiration and the applause coming from the audience more than compensated for the beads of perspiration that trickled down our faces, our napes and soaked our backs.

A homecoming is always a joyful time. It is a chance to greet life's challenges with grace, vibrancy and dignity.

Because with friends, one is never too old to laugh or shed a tear.

Vilma Regidor Taroy, 66, is a retired principal of the Legarda Elementary School.

Demos to mark HK's 6th handover anniversary

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tan Ee Lyn

> The immediate target of Tuesday's protests is an anti-subversion law planned by the Hong Kong government and denounced by critics as a threat to freedoms in the city

HONG KONG—Chinese leaders are expected to descend on Hong Kong next week bearing gifts worth billions of dollars to support its ailing economy, but they are unlikely to be welcomed with open arms.

Instead, critics of the city's Beijing-backed government say up to 100,000 people will use next Tuesday's sixth anniversary of the return of the former British colony to China to air their grievances on the streets.

If the organizers' predictions prove correct, the protests will be the biggest in the city in the years since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

"It is a boiling pot that will explode sooner or later. The question is whether Beijing or the Hong Kong government will do something to cool it down," University of Hong Kong politics lecturer Sonny Lo told Reuters.

Hong Kong newspapers that are close to Beijing say Premier Wen Jiabao and other senior officials will be in town for the anniversary and the signing on Monday of a free-trade deal between Hong Kong, which enjoys special administrative status, and mainland China.

The immediate target of Tuesday's protests is an anti-subversion law planned by the Hong Kong government and denounced by critics as a threat to freedoms in the city.

But critics of the Hong Kong government also accuse it of failing to stem years of economic weakness and of a string of policy blunders, including its initial handling of the flu-like SARS epidemic, which killed almost 300 people and terrorized the city for more than three months.

Widely seen as a gift from China, the free-trade deal seeks to bolster the financial center's once-vaunted business confidence as its economy teeters on the brink of its third recession in six years.

The deal is expected to eliminate tariffs on thousands of Hong Kong goods, saving local firms billions of dollars a year.

Benefits for China's booming economy will be marginal.

Many commentators question the timing, just weeks before the government wants its anti-subversion legislation passed into law.

"It is designed to appease the angry populace, but the working class will not be happy. There are no immediate benefits and only a few in business will benefit," said Lo.

Under the new law, people convicted of treason or subversion can be jailed for life and the state can hold closed-door trials. Rights groups say it could be used to jail anyone critical of Chinese or Hong Kong leaders.

World opposition to the bill is growing. The United States last week stressed that Hong Kong's special status as part of China depended on the protection of human and civil rights.

The government argues the bill will be among the most liberal national security laws in the world. It has rejected pleas for more consultation and refused to release a full draft for public debate, saying ordinary people wouldn't understand it.

"The government likes to tell the world that most Hong Kong people accept this law, but we will be out there to tell them that is absolutely not true," said Laura Tang, who will be marching in her first protest on July 1.

Hong Kong must approve the law under its constitution, agreed by Britain and China before the handover, but the draft gives no timetable: Beijing has been pressing Hong Kong to enact it, fearing the city may be used as a base for subversive activities.

The government's refusal to allow more public consultation and widespread anger about its inability to revive the economy have sparked calls for greater democratization in the territory.

Hong Kong's constitution also provides for eventual universal suffrage, but the government has refused to discuss a timetable for a public debate on this. Such amendments would require majority approval from the legislature, which is packed with pro-Beijing and pro-government lawmakers.

"Most people out there at the protest will be unhappy with (Hong Kong leader) Tung Chee-hwa," said political commentator Andy Ho.

Hong Kong was promised a high degree of autonomy under a "one country, two systems" principle after its handover.

Before 1997, it was consumed by fear that Beijing would meddle in its affairs. Now, hardly a month goes by without a local politician or businessmen making a pilgrimage to Beijing.

Lecturer Lo said that by asking for concessions like the trade pact, Hong Kong was speeding up its integration with mainland China and making itself more beholden to the central government.

"Hong Kong people see it as a trade-off," Lo said. "Hong Kong has become increasingly economically dependent on the mainland and its political autonomy has been crushed." *Reuters*

National artists

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TODAY a new batch of National Artists will be minted in Malacañang. As always the official announcement and the formal installation are greeted with both cheers and jeers from the artistic and cultural community.

Fortunately, more cheers than jeers. Nobody really minds critics who narrowly miss canonization even if they have something relevant to say. There must be an appropriate Filipino term for "sour grapes." Awards are contentious by nature and one can never get unanimity in these things, so whatever is said, before and after the awards, one just has to trust the integrity of the selection process, as well as the good sense of the President who, rightly or wrongly, has the final say on the matter.

The quiet serenity of my research fellowship in Kyoto University was punctuated in recent weeks by e-mail updates on the National Artist Awards which, curiously, used to be known by the acronym NAAwa until someone in the joint Cultural Center of the Philippines-National Commission for Culture and the Arts Board suggested that another acronym be used in future deliberations. Since I didn't want to add more wood to the fire, I buried my head, like an ostrich, in "The Critical Villa: Essays in Literary Criticism by Jose Garcia Villa" compiled and edited by Jonathan Chua (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2002). This may seem strange reading for a historian specializing in the late 19th-century Philippines, but I have always been interested in Villa who seemed, to me, a lonely but romantic figure who lived in self-imposed exile in New York till his death in 1997. Like most Filipino students, I knew of his reputation as National Artist for Literature. I read his poems and would have enjoyed them if not for teachers who graded the way we interpreted these. While Villa was very remote to my line of work, yet I would come across his sharp letters as I browsed through pre-war periodicals. He was always irritated about something or another and his pontificating manner often put my own research on hold as I read through his text. I would imagine this great old God in a cramped New York apartment hurling thunderbolts at his enemies in the Philippines. For all that is said for and against Villa, his views on literature and poetry, his (in)famous annual Honor Roll of the best Short Stories and poems from 1927-1940, shaped the form of modern Philippine literature. That made him historical, even as a footnote. Unfortunately, I left these nuggets of Villa's criticism where I found them, except for a few which I photocopied and used for a column some months ago. Fortunately, Chua came along to dig everything up. He compiled these stray pieces and annotated them, producing a volume of Villa criticism on which he will be judged. It is one thing to know about Villa the poet, the famous coconut poems of his youth, and the intriguing comma poems of his later years, but Villa as critic? People will have to plow through this book for an answer.

Pre-war writers were always proud of their inclusion in Villa's annual Honor Roll of the best short stories and poems. The names are indeed stellar: Loreto Paras, Arturo B. Rotor, Manuel Arguilla, Sinai Hamada, Juan C. Laya, Paz Latorena, Paz Marquez Benitez, Bienvenido N. Santos, S.P. Lopez and Armando G. Dayrit. Some of Villa's choices were validated when, decades later, the following would be declared National Artists: N.V.M. Gonzalez, Francisco Arcellana, H.R. Ocampo and Nick Joaquin. Many old writers I talked to relived their elation following inclusion in Villa's annual "Roll of Honor," such that I did not realize that Villa also compiled an annual "Criminal Record" that also included stellar names.

Villa covered all literary forms in the Criminal Record with the double aim, "to expose bad writing or bad thinking, and to arouse the writers' consciences."

"The especially intolerable pieces I have triple x'ed... In certain instances I have given abbreviated reason or reasons for the work's inclusion in the Criminal Record: Thus, (B.W.) denotes Bad Writing, (B.T.) Bad Thinking, (M.F.) Mental Futility, or What IS the Sense of It, translatable as the Pathetic Professorial Mind, (U.T.) Unconscious Thinking, meaning that the author is especially gifted for talking through his hat."

Later on the abbreviations were expanded to include: (B) Baloney, (BT) Bad Thinking, (BW) Bad Writing, (VBW) Very Bad Writing, (DPS) Doggerel Pure and Simple, (I) Illiterate, (ILD) Impossible to Live Down, (M) Mediocrity, (MMA) Mediocrity Meddling in the Arts, (MT) Mediocrity Triumphant, (MLSB) Mindless Simulating a Brain, (PU) Poetry to You, (Rs) Ridiculous, (RID) Read It and Die, (SBV) Schoolboy Verse, (TT), Tiresome Triteness, (UI) Unbelievable and Indescribable, (UT) Unconscious Talking, (WE) What English!, (WACW) What Anybody Can Write. One wondered why he didn't include (BS) and (PI).

Villa was Villa and what amazes me is how he held forth for so long, and why he suddenly dropped out of sight and out of mind. Through the sheer force of his personality and his opinions, he gave us a way of looking at literature, a way to separate the good from the bad. He had his own yardstick, but like National Artists everyone is eventually judged on the basis of their work, not their awards.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Diamond pillars

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

THERE is low awareness that we are in the midst of a decade that celebrates the aging process. In 1999 the United Nations started to celebrate the International Year of the Older Persons. This will end in 2012. The United Nations estimates that those 60 years and above comprise about 8 percent of the total population in developing countries. It will rise to a little over 10 percent compared to 25 percent in developed countries in 2020. The richer countries get, the greyer their people become. We are now in the middle of roughly a decade of recognizing what senior citizens have contributed to society and lifestyle. The United Nations has simply put its global stamp on the age-old practice, strong in the tradition of the east, of honoring our elders as they linger on, but no longer direct the scene. The United Nations stresses the principles and rights of older citizens to remain independent, lead active and fulfilled lives, deserving of care and dignity at all times.

Fortunately, for the enlightened sectors of our society, the UN drumbeat is fast catching up. The retirement period is not a reason to cast meritorious people to the sidelines. In a number of universities and corporations abroad, they have even scrapped retirement age. One works in life as long as he is fit, willing and of value to workplace and society.

Two recent occasions drive home the point on active life beyond the sunset years. The return of former Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino "Toy" Feliciano as senior counsel to the country's leading law firm SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan is a recent example. Feliciano has an outstanding record not only as a barrister but as an academic luminary in law. Retiring two years short of his term at the Supreme Court, Feliciano has the enviable record of being appointed as member of the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, the first Filipino jurist appointed to such an eminent position. He brought further honors to the country when he became the chair of the Appellate Body from 2000-2001. As such, Feliciano steered and arbitrated great trade disputes among the WTO members including the giant trading countries of the United States, Japan and Western Europe. This is now the added experience that he brings to his position in the practice of Philippine law. As a former managing partner of SyCip Law prior to his appointment in the highest tribunal, Feliciano helps direct the development of international trade law in the country, so vital in this age when trade and services become the primary vehicles of foreign relations and interactions. The former justice is well-honed to this challenge. Even when he was actively practicing law, Feliciano, who is also an adviser to the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR), was a perennial favorite lecturer in distinguished institutions in international law. In 1992 he ran a one-month seminar course on "External Debt at the Peace Palace" (where the International Court of Justice is based) in The Hague, the Netherlands. My husband, Rafy (who is with SyCip Law and lectures at the UP College of Law), was among the participants in that program and he witnessed how well respected Feliciano is in the world circle of jurists. Grateful for the renewed opportunity to work once more with the former justice, the firm tendered a welcome reception in his honor, at the Manila Polo Club on a rainy evening in May. The firm's managing partner, Andres "Andy" Gatmaitan, sees international trade law practice as a boon to an emerging economy like the Philippines.

A change in setting takes us to an unpretentious audio-visual seminar room of the UP's Department of Political Science last June 10. A program was organized to mark the 75th birthday of the enduring Filipino political scientist Dr. Remigio Escalona Agpalo. Countless students of political science and other social sciences have passed under the tutelage of Agpalo. UP alumni of various hues and ranks—congressmen, senators and members of Philippine bureaucracy, foreign service, academe and the media, the military and corporate worlds, are among the students of Agpalo. He of the *pandanggo sa ilaw* politics, *pangulo* system and the organic hierarchical paradigm. Agpalo founded the Philippine Political Science Association in the '60s and has been a true mentor and gadfly of Philippine politics. Oblivious to what is popular on issues, he can tackle with courage and faith the most controversial, whether the heroism of Marcos or the presumed innocence of an Estrada. With oratorical style and classic quotations, Agpalo can confound you with his reckoning and analysis of facts. In the end, you have to grant him the force of his convictions. His latest writing, "The Higher Law of Heaven and the Lower Law of Earth" (published in the UP Diliman Review) assails the whims and caprices of politics, whether of issues and personalities. Yet, Agpalo is never one to compromise his principles. An academic throughout, a big issue in the '80s saw him move to another university in Manila as a sign of his protest of the dominant view which he strongly disagreed with. But one can never put a good man down. While he studied politics, he never played the wrong and dirty kind even in the confines of the academe. His steadfastness was duly rewarded. His own department (where he served as chair in the early '60s) made him professor emeritus in 1988, a lifetime appointment (the other political science professor with that distinction is Dr. Emy Arcellana, wife to the late National Artist Franz Arcellana). In his more than 50 years of service in the university, Agpalo, though a product of American higher education (1953 highest honors, University of Maine), chooses to teach the discipline of political science using indigenous materials right in this country, with occasional brief stints as a visiting professor abroad.

The line shared by Justice Feliciano and Dr. Agpalo is the passage of time that crafted them into rare gems of experience, wisdom and integrity. In their 70s, they have become diamond pillars for their institutions, toughened by the study and practice of their respective fields, law and political science. Their sheer brilliance and passion for learning light the way for others to follow. Philippine society must continue to recognize individuals of such caliber. Their contributions to the intellectual and spiritual wellspring of Philippine society deserve the kind of respect they get from their peers and professions.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is at present a vice president of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations and editor of the Foreign Relations Journal. Comments to nataliam91@hotmail.com.

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Compassionate and true servant of God

THAT was a beautiful story Ceres P. Doyo did on June 15 on Fr. Jose Dizon (and adopted son) titled, "Fr. Joe D: Doing doubly well as father." It is not only most reassuring—it illustrates further the Filipino's capacity for compassion and focuses on those truly few who serve God with sincerity and fortitude.

I know quite a number of such selfless people and I'm happy that every so often, they are recognized, for recognition is the least they expect. I hope the INQUIRER can do a follow up 10 to 15 years from now.

—F. SIONIL JOSE,
Solidaridad Bookshop,
531 Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila

More than brave words needed

I DON'T know if the action of Msgr. Nico Bautista is to be applauded or to be condemned.

In an interview "at the INQUIRER office," after attending a confidential, closed-door meeting at Jaime Cardinal Sin's residence, Monsignor Bautista stated: "The Catholic Church should bring into the daylight what we do in the dark, the scandals are all over, it's about time for the Church to open up and admit the situation, the evils going on. We demand transparency from other people, why can't we be transparent ourselves?" He further said, "He had written several letters to the cardinal concerning allegations against his fellow priest." Very courageous!

It's about time the monsignor should bring it all out! Provide the details and proof to his allegations. We, the faithful are in the dark.

—T. A. CRUZ,
Tondo, Manila

Elephant show organizer complied with regulations

THIS has reference to the news item titled, "Seize show elephants, animal rights advocates urge officials" last June 6, 2003.

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry is the lead agency that implements Republic Act 8485, otherwise known as "The Philippines Animal Welfare Act of 1998" and its implementing rules and regulations. We have registered Uniprom Inc. as an animal show (elephant show) organizer in consideration of its compliance with the requirements of DA Administrative Order No. 8.

—VICTOR C. ATIENZA, DVM, FRVC,
officer in charge,
Office of the Director,
Bureau of Animal Industry,
Diliman, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Welcome changes

SOME years back, I wrote the INQUIRER to complain about the inefficient service, frequent electric service interruptions and discourtesies of the Tarlac Electric Cooperative I Camiling Branch employees. Now, I am writing again not to complain but to praise the management of the utility company for the reforms they have made.

The employees have changed a lot. They are now very courteous, including security guards. The service crews are now very efficient.

To cite a couple of examples, about a month ago at around 8 p.m., the power transformer at the corner of Arellano and Bonifacio Streets in Camiling got busted. A few minutes after the matter was reported to their office, the service crews arrived and fixed the problem. Electricity was restored the same night.

In another incident, the wooden pole of the transmission line was burned in a bush fire along the road going to Barangay Bobon. Tarelco immediately replaced that with a concrete pole.

To the management and employees of Tarelco I Camiling Branch: *Mabuhay kayong lahat.*

—HENRY L. DOMINGO
2 Bonifacio St.,
Camiling, Tarlac

Lepanto does not abet pollution

THIS refers to the June 14 article "Probe of Abra River pollution urged," written by Desiree Caluza and Vincent Cabreza.

Some points to consider:

1. Lepanto strongly adheres to sustainable mineral resources development. Our operations in Mankayan, Benguet discharge treated water (effluents) to the Mankayan River, a tributary of the Abra River. We do not discharge mine tailings into the Mankayan River and the Abra River. All treated tailings are properly deposited in our dam. The water from the operations undergoes a three-stage treatment process to meet standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

2. The multisectoral Multipartite Monitoring Team (MMT), the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Environmental Management Bureau regularly check our effluents.

3. While Cervantes, Ilocos Sur is 6 kilometers downstream of our operations, Quirino, Ilocos Sur is about 25 km away. It is highly improbable that the alleged pollution, which is not felt in Mankayan and Cervantes, would be seen in an area further than these towns.

4. There were no "fishkills" in Cervantes. The water from the dam is currently used for cattle and vegetable farming. The dam's pond is a periodic destination of migratory birds and local poultry. These animals are not affected. These alleged "fishkills" are highly impossible.

5. We do not use the Abra River as a basin for our tailings. All tailings are properly deposited in our tailings dam, which likewise serves as an effective trap against natural silt and sand (about 230,000 tons annually). The dam prevents these materials from finding their way to the Abra River.

6. Our tailings dam prevents catastrophic floods along the Mankayan River. This was demonstrated during Typhoon Feria, which devastated Baguio City and the rest of the Cordillera region in year 2001. The water level in our dam was easily managed, resulting in the prevention of any unusual big floods.

7. Our company is a prime mover of watershed management and reforestation activities in Mankayan. Since 1996, we reforested 250 hectares with 2 million trees, thereby producing at least 11 mini-forest parks through a community-company partnership. There is no truth to the alleged destruction of watershed and deforestation.

8. Anna Marie Leung, supposed executive director of Chestcore, and her group, masqueraded as representatives of the University of the Philippines. Their group and their report are not officially sanctioned by UP and by legal and ethical standards, and they should refrain from using the same.

9. After subjecting the report of Leung to a scientific evaluation, the same falls short of the appropriate procedures, definitive approach and systematic analyses to effectively qualify as a scientific paper. As such, the report can be considered nothing more than a scrap of paper worthy of the wastebasket.

—J.M. GLENN P. BATILANDO,
corporate environment manager,
Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.,
8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

When to fight graft and corruption

IT'S no longer news to hear that corruption continues to taint most government transactions. It is disappointing that such anomalous deals are "discovered" after they are done deeds. Billions of pesos are lost to graft and corruption, yet to this day, one can count on his fingers how many unscrupulous people have been convicted.

Why such irregular transactions are not detected beforehand is beyond me. Can graft and corruption be stamped out or at least minimized? Perhaps it could be done. Recently, it was reported that tax collections in the first quarter of 2003 overshot its target. Surely, this was achieved either because correct taxes were paid, or "doctoring" was minimized.

If we are really determined to fight corruption, Thomas Jefferson advised that, "The time to guard against corruption and tyranny is before they shall have gotten hold of us. It is better to keep the wolf out of the fold than to trust to drawing his teeth and talons after he shall have entered."

—ADELFA L. ETRUISTE,
Eulalio Glinoga Street,
Barangay Castillo,
Pitogo, Quezon

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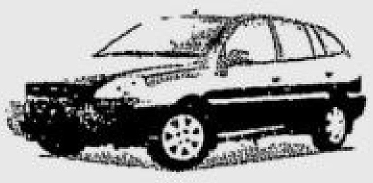

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guec

US forces clashed with Syrian border guards–Pentagon

WASHINGTON—US forces clashed with Syrian border guards last week, injuring five, in the course of an air and ground attack on a convoy of vehicles that was believed to be carrying senior Iraqi officials, defense officials said Monday.

It was not immediately known how many people were killed in the raid on the convoy early Thursday local time, but officials said there was no indication that any senior Iraqi leaders were among them.

Five Syrian nationals were injured in the course of the operation, three of whom were treated for their injuries, said a defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Another official said the Syrians were border guards wounded in a subsequent firefight.

It was unclear whether the fighting spilled over into Syrian territory, officials said.

The clash came after US forces attacked a convoy of six or seven vehicles, striking some in a compound in western Iraq near the Syrian border and others as they moved away from it, a defense official said.

US special forces and airborne troops backed by multiple aircraft, including an AC-130 gunship and helicopters, took part in the attack which was launched in response to intelligence that the convoy was carrying people associated with the deposed Iraqi regime, officials said.

It was unclear how US forces came into contact with Syrian border guards, an official said.

"It could have been special forces, it could have been airborne forces. The reporting is unclear," said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"There were a few Syrian nationals involved in the incident," said Lt. Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon spokesperson. "A few may have been injured. We are treating those."

"It is still to be determined which side of the border" the convoy was on when it was hit, Keck said, adding that the United States was working with the Syrian government.

Another defense official said 20 people were captured in the attack, but most of them were released after it was determined they were not a threat.

The attack has prompted reports that US officials believed deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein or his sons may have been in the convoy.

But a US defense official with knowledge of the intelligence that led to the strike, said reports that Saddam or his sons were hit were "wishful thinking."

"We don't have specific details yet who was in the convoy or the number of enemy forces," another defense official said.

"We do not have any confirmation of the identity of any individuals who might have been killed. Site exploitation continues, and routine DNA testing will be done if appropriate based on all intelligence gathering," the official said. *AFP*

Senators see US 5-year presence in Iraq

WASHINGTON—US senators said on Monday American troops could remain in Iraq for at least five years, and US officials said there was no indication toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or his sons were killed in an attack on suspected "regime figures" in western Iraq.

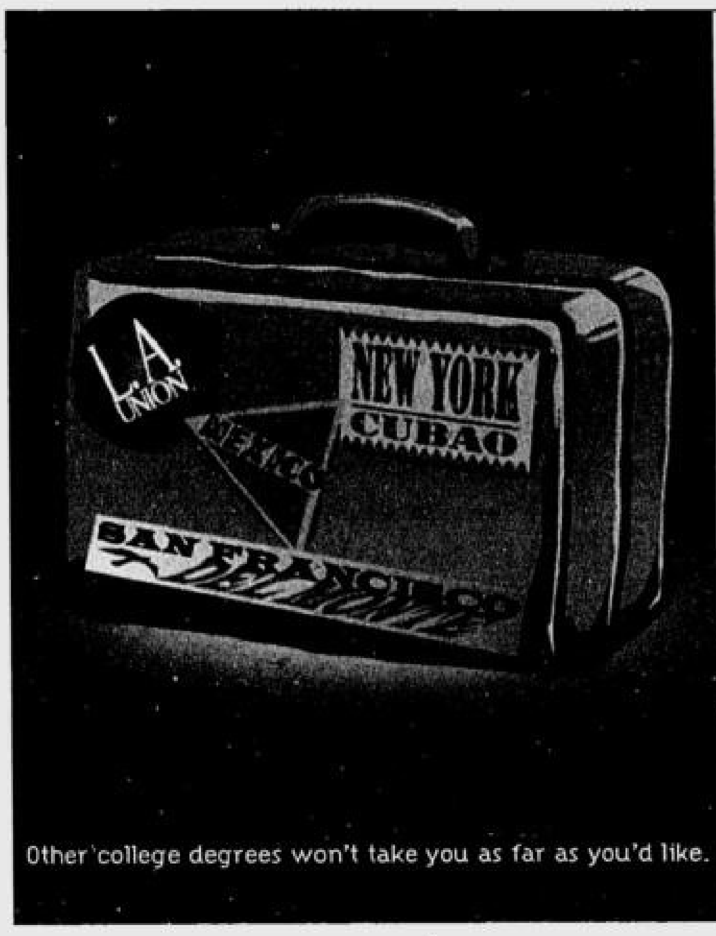
The lawmakers, members of the influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a bipartisan fact-finding visit to Iraq, urged President George W. Bush to be more forthcoming about the breadth of the US commitment and the cost of rebuilding Iraq.

"I think we're going to be here in a big way with forces and economic input for a minimum of three to five years," Sen. Joseph Biden, the committee's ranking Democrat, told reporters in Baghdad.

"There now needs to be real truth-telling by the president and by each of us," added Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, the committee's chair.

Lugar and fellow panel Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska agreed that five years was a realistic figure.

"The president's instructions are that we will stay as long as necessary but not a day longer. I think we are still in the very early stages of the post-major-combat era," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters. *Reuters*



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KENNEDY during his historical visit to Berlin in this photo dated June 26, 1963. AFP

Germany recalls Kennedy's speech

BERLIN—With just four words, US president John F. Kennedy talked himself into Cold War history in a moving speech 60 years ago this week in the heart of divided Berlin.

"Ich bin ein Berliner," the president uttered to a rapturous response. His words went round the world. Berlin was safe, it seemed.

The city will Wednesday commemorate the occasion with the formal opening of an exhibition on Kennedy's June 26, 1963 visit and what it meant then and now for US-German relations.

On Thursday, his speech will be broadcast over loudspeakers at the precise time, 6:44 p.m., that he delivered it from the balcony of the town hall in the Schoeneberg district of Berlin.

"Visiting the frontline city was an important signal on the relationship," said Andreas Etges, who put together the exhibition in the German Historical Museum.

The president was greeted like a pop star. Hundreds of thousands turned out to welcome his motorcade during his eight-hour visit. "It was an overwhelming occasion," said Etges.

It was June 1963. Berlin was nervous about its future on the dividing line between communist east and capitalist west. The Cold War was at its height.

The previous summer, the United States and Soviet Union nearly went to war in the Cuban missile crisis. A year earlier, communist East Germany had built the Berlin Wall, a scar through the heart of the city.

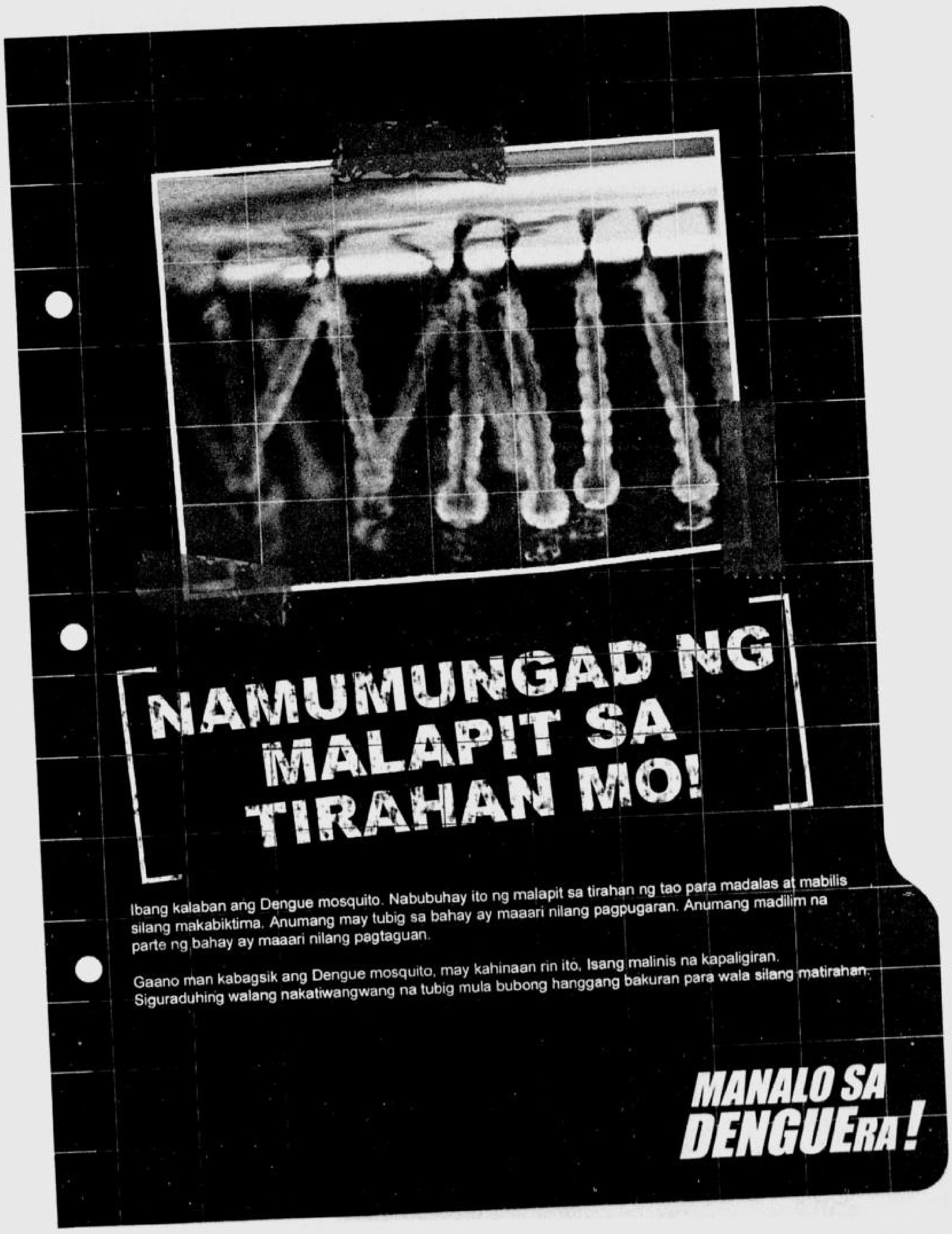
Kennedy was on a goodwill tour of Europe when he visited Berlin. He saw the Wall twice close at hand, once draped from the other side with a huge East German flag, the second time from Checkpoint Charlie, the allied crossing point.

Struck by the images and impressed by the size of an expectant crowd, some of whom had camped out overnight, he reworked his prepared speech.

Whereas the East-West mood had been one of tentative moves toward detente, he repeatedly lashed out at communism in the strongest terms.

At the end, Kennedy uttered the famous words: "All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words 'Ich bin ein Berliner'."

The president was moved by the emotion that greeted his words. His advisor McGeorge Bundy, worried about raising East-West tensions, was less enamored. "Mr President, I think you went too far," Bundy said. *AFP*



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Gaano man kabagsik ang Dengue mosquito, may kahinaan rin ito. Isang malinis na kapaligiran. Siguraduhing walang nakatiwangwang na tubig mula bubong hanggang bakuran para wala silang matirahan.

MANALO SA DENGUEra!

Isang mensahe mula sa BIOGESIC PARACETAMOL BIOGESIC

Bush, Cheney add $5.6M to campaign war chest

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"We know for our country and for our cause, better days lie ahead," he said.

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Also Monday, Vice President Cheney headlined his first reelection fund-raisers of the season. He raised $452,000 in Richmond, Virginia and $1.2 million in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, according to figures provided by the Bush-Cheney campaign.

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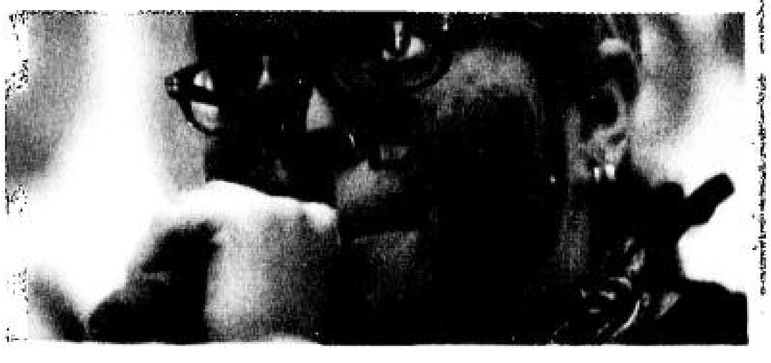
New York State Gov. George Pataki, co-chair of the event along with former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, called Bush "a president who understands the importance of New York." *Reuters*



KAYT Henson protests during an anti-Bush rally outside the hotel where President Bush attended a fundraiser June 23. AP

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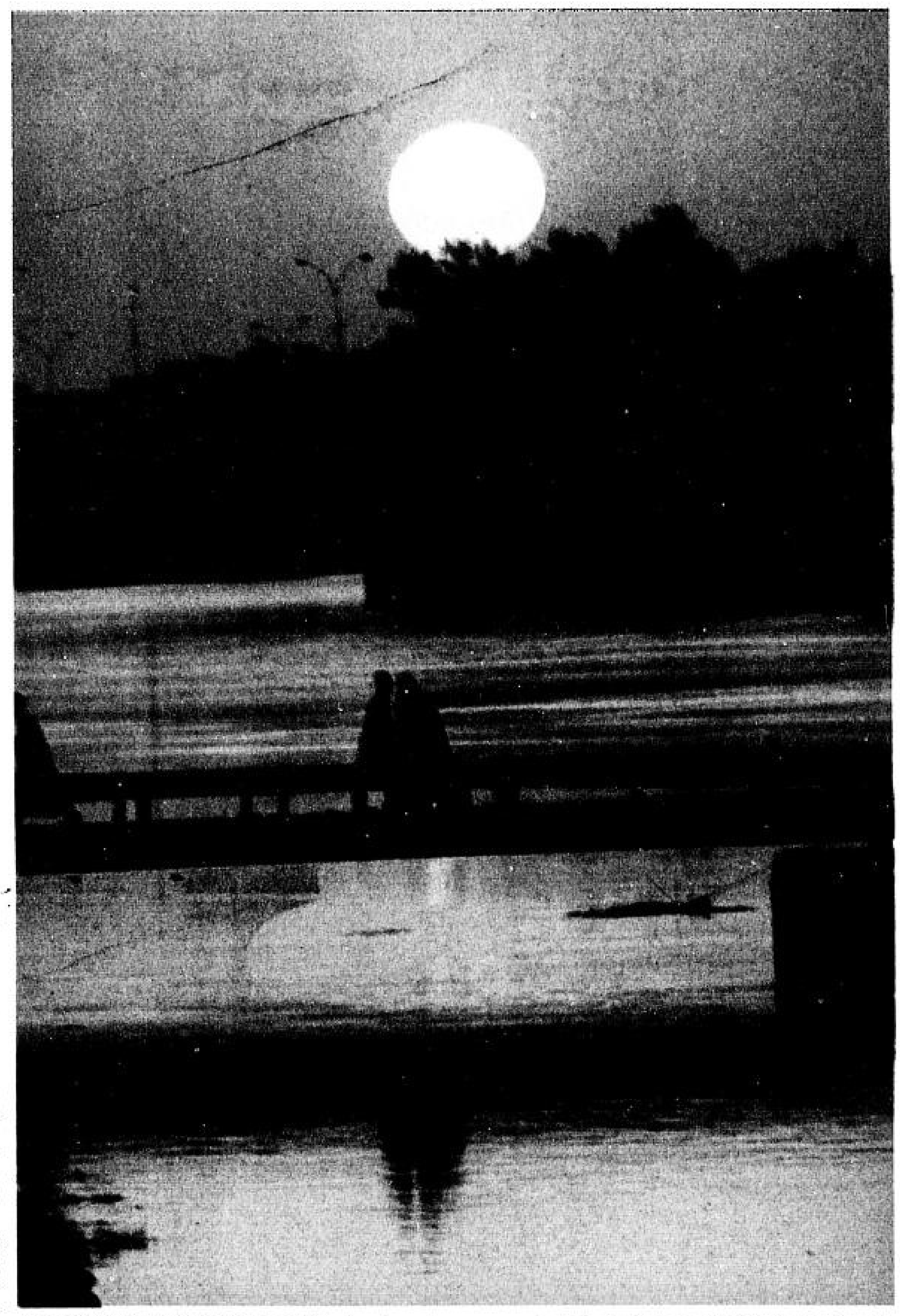
Blix assails US for insisting Iraq has banned weapons without giving proof



BEAUTIFUL BUT TROUBLED LAND–People walk across a pedestrian bridge over the Euphrates River in Simawa, southern Iraq, June 21. AP

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He said the United States was not alone in believing that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. "I think all the Western intelligence agencies that I met were fairly convinced that there were weapons of mass destruction," he said, though Russia never "came out affirmatively."

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He noted that the United States joined the Security Council in condemning Israel's destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981 because in Washington's view, the Israelis had not exhausted all peaceful means.

"We could transport it to March 2003. Were the peaceful means sufficiently used?" he asked.

"I think it's very likely that if we were allowed to stay longer—another couple of months—you would have made some progress, maybe you would have seen more pro-active (Iraqi cooperation)," Blix said. "But I doubt that you would have come at the end of May or June to say all the unaccounted for stuff is now accounted for. I don't think that would have happened." *AP*

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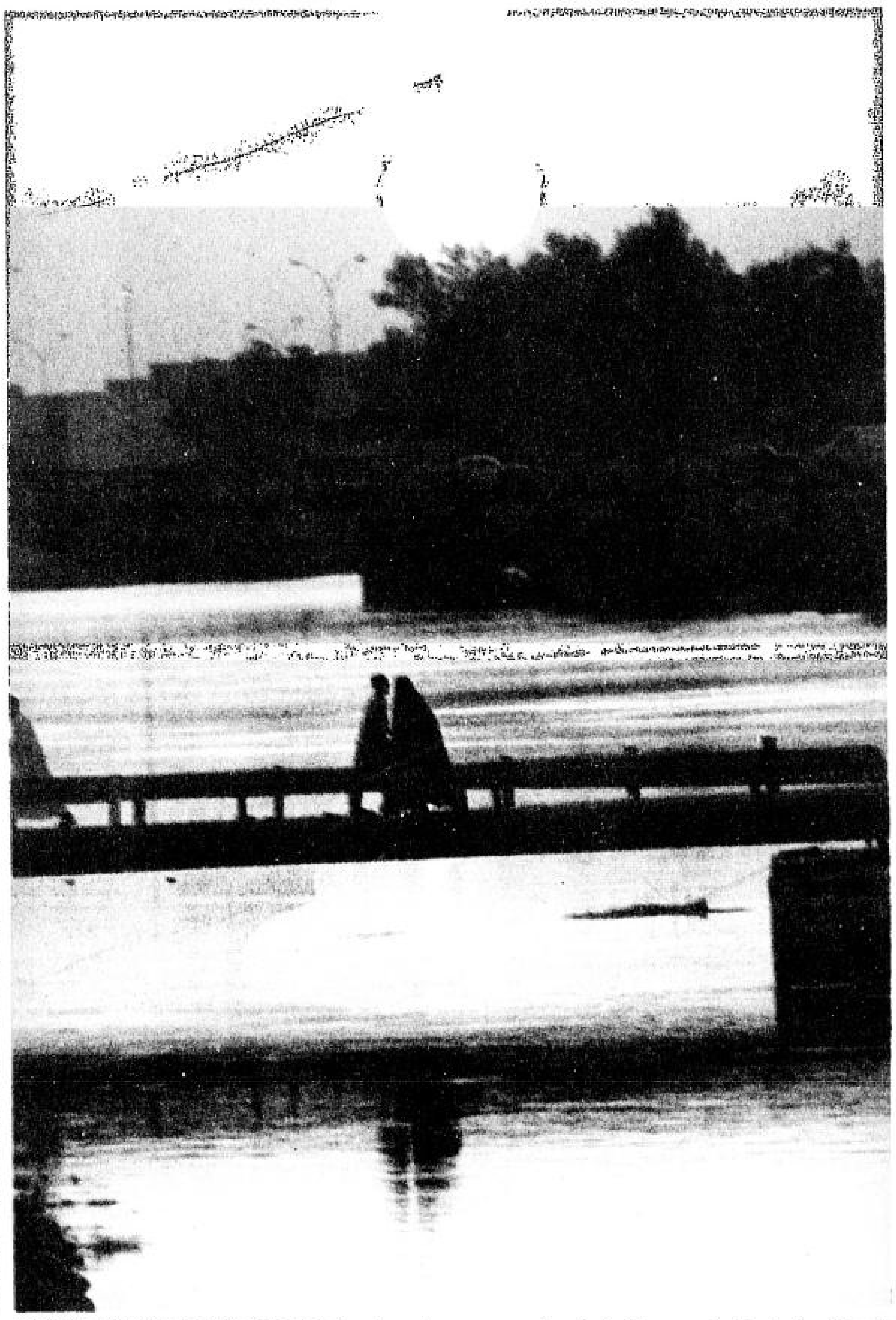

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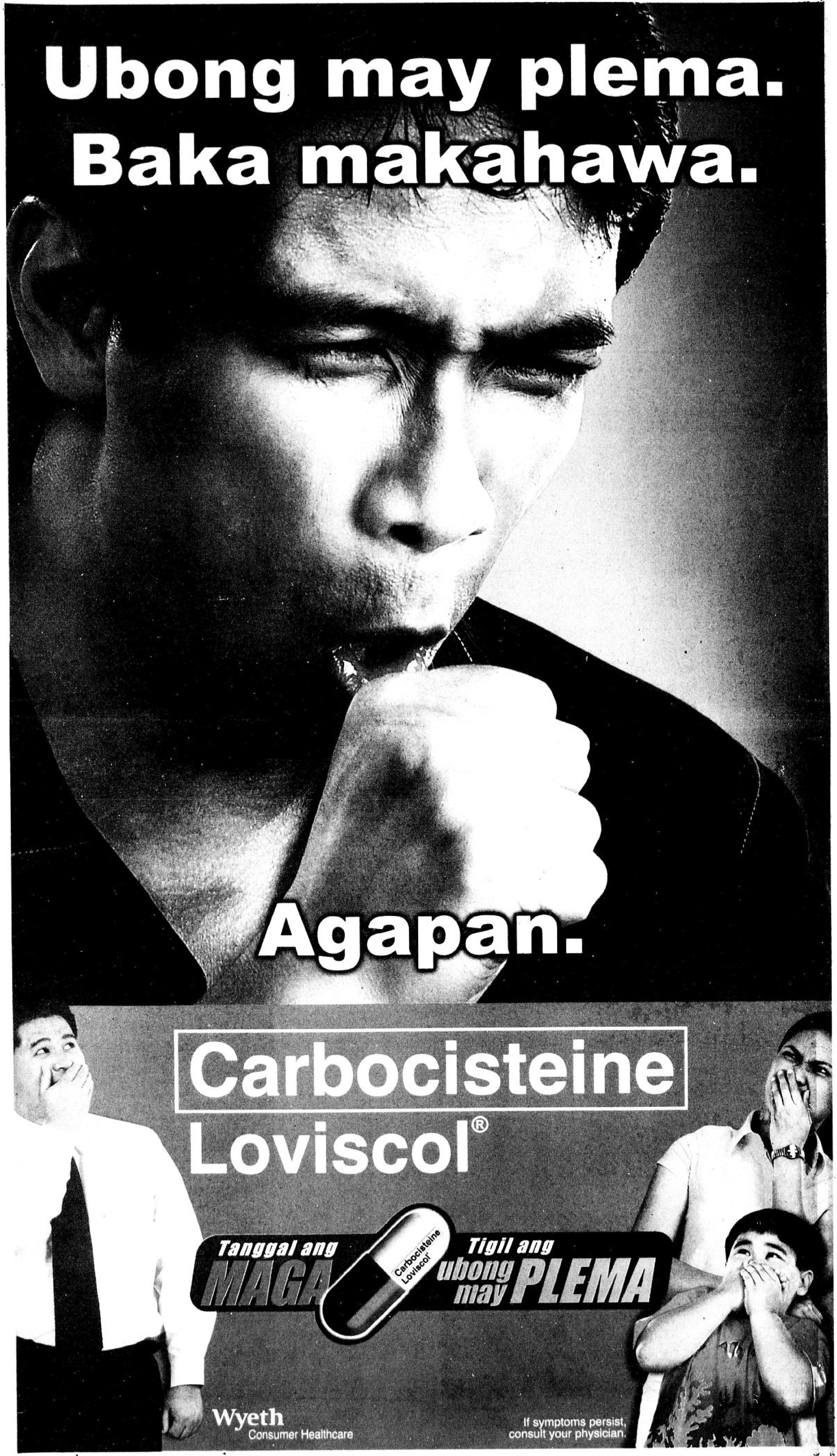
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BIR regional exec fired for dishonesty

By Suzzane B. Salva; *PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—For accumulating millions of pesos in unexplained wealth, an official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Central Visayas was ordered dismissed from the service by the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

Visayas Ombudsman Primo Miro, in an order released yesterday, charged Nieto Agad Racho, chief of BIR-7's Special Investigation Division, with dishonesty and falsification of public documents.

Racho was ordered permanently disqualified from holding public office and all of his benefits forfeited.

Racho's name figured in the three-part special report of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) on BIR officials leaving in luxury, that saw print last month.

The Visayas Ombudsman, however, began its investigation on Racho in 2001 following a complaint lodged by dyHP Balita Action Team of Radio Mindanao Inc. over Racho's alleged unexplained wealth. Racho was then the revenue district officer of the BIR's Cebu South District Office.

The investigation, among others, uncovered that he has deposits in three banks amounting to more than P5.8 million that were not reflected in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SAL).

In April last year, the Visayas Ombudsman ordered the BIR regional office to submit certified true copies of Racho's SAL. None reflected Racho's immense wealth.

The items, which were allegedly not declared, included Racho's savings deposit of P2.93 million with the MetroBank Cebu Tabunoc Branch, bank accounts of P1.22 million with the Philippine Commercial International Bank and a Gold savings account of P1.63 million with the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

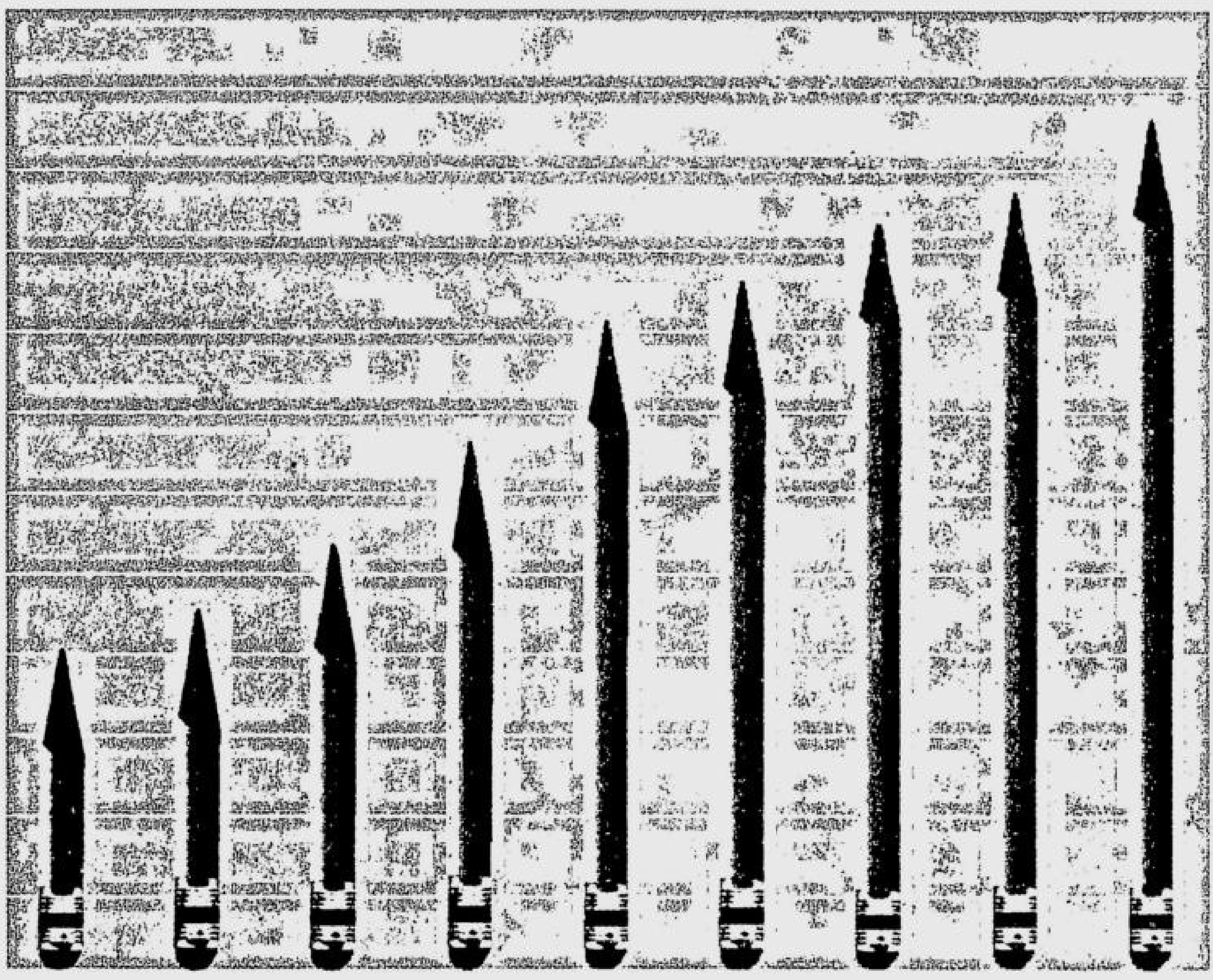
Comparing the certifications from the three banks attesting to Racho's deposits and to his entry in his SAL, the huge disparity in his assets became clear since the BIR official made it appear that he had a bank deposit of only P15,000.

Ombudsman Director Virginia Palanca-Santiago said the act of Racho in not reflecting his huge amounts of bank deposits, which is not proportionate to his and his wife's salaries "falls under the administrative offense of falsification and dishonesty."

"In this case, the respondent has shown his unfitness to hold a public office. He miserably failed to observe the Constitutional edict that a public office is a public trust and that public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, efficiency and loyalty," she said.

Racho could not be reached for comment yesterday. He had previously tried to stop the Visayas Ombudsman from going through with the investigation and had denied owning huge amounts of bank deposits.

Karunungan at Kalinangan.



Isang paanyaya! We are celebrating Corporate Social Responsibility Week with a three-day CSR EXPO 2003 at the Philippine International Convention Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City on July 9 – 11, 2003.

Ka Partner Ka!
sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran

Discussions from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Lunch and Fellowship have limited seating, so attendance is by invitation. For inquiries, call 892-9189, 892-9084.

Karunungan at Kalinangan. Education is the country's passport to global competitiveness. It is a pillar of democracy and freedom. Through quality education accessible to all, Filipinos learn to cherish their values and unique cultural heritage. Our arts and culture give us our national identity and a sense of self-worth.

Pinoy ka, imbitado ka! All exhibit areas and on-site activities, e.g. Wellness Check-ups, Smoke Emission Testing, etc. are open to the public as well as the Education Plenary, Retrospect and Roundtable

July 9, Wednesday

8:00 - 9:30 **REGISTRATION**

10:00 - 11:30 **OPENING OF EXHIBITS**

OPENING CEREMONIES
Guest of Honor:
Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

12:00 - 1:30 **LUNCHEON and PLENARY**
Theme: **Corporate Social Responsibility**
Speaker: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
President, Ayala Corporation

1:30 - 3:30 **PLENARY: BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION**
Information Technology • Multi-Media • School Infrastructure & Facilities • Student Development • Teacher Development

3:45 - 5:00 **IN RESTROSPECT: Moving Forward**
(Kapihan Style - ex DepEd Secretaries)

1:30 - 3:30 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS** *(Concurrent to Plenary)*
Ayala Foundation - USA • Children's Hour • Creative Fund Raising • Foundation for Sustainable Societies • KALAHI-CIDSS • Peace & Equity Foundation • UNDP Small Grants Programme

5:30 **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT with MIRANT PHILIPPINES**
Edgardo A. Bautista
President & CEO, Mirant Philippines

Daily On-Site Activities:
- Photo Exhibits/Program Exhibits/Resource Center: 8 A.M. To 4 P.M.
- Fun, Friendship And Learning At The Knowledge Camp: Daily 8:00-11:00 A.M.; 1:00-4:00 P.M.
- Wellness Booth: Free Blood Pressure Taking, Blood Typing, Cholesterol Testing, ECG, Osteoporosis Screening, Fitness Sessions; Foot Spa, Massage: 9:00A.M. To 4:00 P.M.
- Bloodletting
- Smoke-Emission Testing

Due to increased participation,venue has been transferred to PICC.

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50 workers, guards injured in plant clash

CABUYAO, Laguna—About 50 workers and security guards were injured during a clash that erupted Monday at the Nestlé Philippines plant in Laguna, police said.

The incident occurred when some 700 workers, their family members and supporters tried to take over the plant at 3 p.m. on Monday.

The workers, belonging to the United Filipro Employees Union (UFE), said they wanted to pressure the management to implement the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals concerning retirement benefits.

Around 300 security guards and members of the Police Regional Special Action Force and Task Force Calabarzon, however, prevented the takeover.

For around 20 minutes, the workers and their supporters were hit by truncheons, after which fire trucks stationed at the gates sprayed them with water.

An exchange of rocks ensued until Laguna policemen under Supt. Fernando Guico intervened at the main gate.

The clash, however, continued at the second gate where the guards used a forklift to overpower the workers.

Nestlé Philippines said in a news release that those who were at the gates were separated workers and their sympathizers who wanted to "disrupt operations and hurt the food company's domestic and export businesses."

It said "the incident is the latest in a series of illegal acts, provocations and harassments orchestrated by the separated employees and their sympathizers to harass the company by attacking its employees and inflicting damage to its operations."

The Kilusang Mayo Uno, in a media release, condemned "the grave harassment and violent dispersal of the protest."

The court decisions, which were released in 1991 and on Feb. 27, 2003, respectively, declared that retirement benefits are a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) issue and directed the management to go back to the negotiating table with the union, according to the UFE.

The workers said that up to now, management has not implemented the orders.

"We have strong just, moral and legal bases," Diosdado Fortuna, president of UFE said.

Twenty-four of the workers who figured in Monday's clash were brought to the Cabuyao Community Hospital and St. James Hospital due to injuries.

Most of them suffered head injuries. One of them, Christopher Oliquino, was transferred to the Philippine General Hospital due to continuous bleeding and vomiting.

The workers have been on strike since Jan. 14, 2002, citing "unfair labor practice and bargaining."

Most of those retrenched had been with the company for more than 20 years.

The KMU said it will intensify the campaign to boycott all Nestlé products. Several workers organizations in different countries have already pledged their support for the boycott campaign, the militant labor center said.

The Nestlé-Cabuyao factory is the company's largest manufacturing facility in the country, said the company news release.

It manufactures a wide variety of products for the domestic market and also serves as the Association of Southeast Asian Supply Center for infant nutrition.

The company banks on exports to boost its sales revenues, it said. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Armed men fire at town hall a day after mayor's slay

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TAYUG, Pangasinan—Three armed men fired at the town hall on Monday, a day after Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza was gunned down by suspected New People's Army rebels.

Police said the hooded men wearing short pants arrived at about 10 p.m. Monday, turned off the streetlights and started shooting.

SPO1 Edwin Tabaco said the men were armed with M14 and M16 Armalite rifles, and fired at the town hall's sliding glass window and the building's concrete wall. Police found at least 19 bullet holes on the windows and wall.

Recovered from the scene were 19 empty shells of M16 Armalite and nine empty shells of M14 Armalite.

On Sunday, Zaragoza, 61, and Wilfredo Hidalgo, 50, were gunned down as they were leaving a cockpit arena in Barangay Toketec. Seven others were wounded in the attack.

Reports said several policemen went to the town hall a few minutes after the Monday shooting but failed to find the suspects. The police station is located behind the town hall.

Four girls told police that they were talking in front of the town hall when the three men arrived and started firing at the building.

Despite Zaragoza's murder and the strafing of the town hall, Chief Insp. Ricardo Revita, chief of the 107th Police Mobile Group said there was no breakdown in the town's peace and order.

Revita said the police are still pursuing Zaragoza's attackers, who could have fled to Nueva Ecija.

While there were indications that it was the NPA that killed Zaragoza, Monday's strafing of the town hall could not be blamed on the communist rebel group, he said.

"This could be a political group wanting to send a message, it could even be (Zaragoza's) supporters," he said. He, however, declined to elaborate on this theory.

Senior Supt. Mario Sandiego, Pangasinan police director, said there was no need to augment the police force in the town because of the PMG unit's presence.

"My instruction is to intensify police visibility and to work for (the) issuance of search warrants on armed groups in the town," he said.

The 2003 National Artist Award

Virgilio Almario
LITERATURE
Jose Joya
VISUAL ARTS
Salvador Bernal
THEATER DESIGN
Alejandro Roces
LITERATURE
Eddie Romero
FILM & BROADCAST ARTS

Conferment Ceremony

with Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
June 25, 2003 • 10:30 am.
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace

Parangal sa mga Pambansang Alagad ng Sining

July 14, 2003 • 7:00 pm.
Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater)

National Commission on Culture and the Arts

Cultural Center of the Philippines

Fake anti-'jueteng' raid uncovered

By Juan Escandor
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Police investigators here have uncovered as fake an anti-jueteng raid alllegedly conducted by the Task Force Jericho on June 18. Task Force Jericho is an anti-vice unit attached with the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Insp. Jesus de los Santos Francisco Jr., chief of the police investigation group in this city, said the supposed jueteng draw the Task Force Jericho raided was staged in Barangay Siembre, Bombon, Camarines Sur.

He said they found this out through the street children and vagrants who were paid to stage the draw that the Task Force Jericho allegedly busted on cue.

Kenneth Tyson, 28, a street vagrant, was reportedly among those apprehended which gave them the lead that the Task Force Jericho's anti-jueteng raid could have been staged.

Francisco said Tyson, who does not even know how to read and write, had told them that a certain Paranal offered him and other street children and vagrants a work that day.

Tyson executed a sworn statement that said Paranal "offered to pay the amount of P300 by simulating as jueteng employee."

He said they were told that they would be conducting a jueteng draw but would be arrested and jailed.

He said he agreed to the condition because he was "in need of money."

Tyson said that when they reached the place where the jueteng was supposedly drawn they were advised to sit in front of a table.

Jueteng paraphernalia and cash were placed on the table later until several persons came, arrested them and brought them to the Naga City Police Station.

A certain Jerry Presnilla, 33, of Calabanga, Camarines Sur, corroborated Tyson's sworn statement but added that they were also offered free meals.

Presnilla said the persons who arrested them were armed with long and short firearms and they were made to lie down and were told they were under arrest.

He swore he could still identify the persons who instructed him to participate in the fake jueteng draw if he can see them again.

A day after the staging of the jueteng draw, three persons, whom he believed to be radio reporters, told him that if asked in an interview he must say that he was working as a part-time jueteng employee.

Chief Insp. Jesus Centino Martirez, deputy chief of police, said in a sworn statement that a certain PSI Pasilao coordinated with the police office here at about 9:30 a.m., June 18 after arresting 11 jueteng draw participants.

Martirez said he doubted "the veracity of the report, as the persons arrested were street children at downtown Naga City."

He said Supt. Francisco Peñaflor, chief of police, ordered the verification of the alleged place where the jueteng draw was conducted, which supposedly took place in Barangay Carolina.

Martirez said together with three members of Task Force Jericho and two arrested persons they verified and found out that the place was actually in Sitio Pasto, Siembre in Bombon town.

A "coordination sheet" from Task Force Jericho, showed the list of police officers who participated in the fake raid, among them, Supt. Alejandro Gutierrez, area supervisor; Senior Insp. Antonio Pasillao, team leader; and 10 other police officers as team members.

The "coordination sheet" with control number 0612-053 and duration from June 11 to June 30 was signed by Gutierrez and Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon.

ROUNDUP

4 car thieves killed

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—Four suspected members of a car thief gang were killed during a five-minute shootout with the police near the Uratex Foam Industrial Site on Plaridel-Pulilan Road in Barangay Parulan on Wednesday. Killed were Andy Fernandez, Alvin Mapalad, Maximo Santiago and a man believed to be the group's leader. Chief Insp. George Torcuator, Plaridel police chief, said his men and agents of the regional traffic management office based in Pampanga were patrolling the North Luzon Expressway when they spotted the suspects' vehicle.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Preserving Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—Local officials said the effort to preserve the unique qualities of Baguio City as a heritage zone must start from residents themselves. Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia said the city council is preparing an ordinance to guide the preservation of the city's historical spots and to make Baguio look "the way it should be." He said the proposed ordinance would protect the Bell Amphitheater in Camp John Hay, the Mansion, Wright Park, Mines View Park and the forested area in Barangay Pacdal.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Village chief ouster

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Residents are demanding the removal of a village chief after at least two married women, including his relative, accused him of raping them. The victim, a 21-year-old teacher-applicant in the village, claimed that the village official, 45, raped her in a hotel in Solano town on June 2. Reports said the suspect asked the victim, his cousin-in-law, to accompany him to the hotel purportedly to pick up some things. Another victim, a 35-year-old mother of three, said the village chief raped her in his office on April 29. The suspect, however, denied the allegations. He claimed that the complainants allowed themselves to be used by his political enemies.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Murder raps for bogus cop

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police filed a murder charge against a bogus police officer responsible for the killing of a barangay councilman last week. Richard Garcia, who introduced himself as police chief inspector and aide of Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Mindanao police director, is now behind bars after police filed the case Friday. Tor denied Garcia was his aide. The police are still preparing a case of illegal possession of a firearm against Garcia for carrying a .45 caliber handgun without proper documents. The gun was used by the suspect in shooting Robinsito Mejia, a *kagawad* of Barangay Dadiangas North, shortly after an altercation inside a karaoke bar. Deputy Director Jose Lalisan, head of the PNP's directorate for personnel and administration, told the INQUIRER Garcia is not connected with the PNP.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

22 pushers nabbed

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—At least 22 suspected drug pushers have been arrested by different police stations in Quezon province after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a sweeping campaign against the drug menace. Two female pushers from San Francisco town were among those arrested. Lucena police captured at least 11 notorious drug pushers that include Roberto Sabinosa, of Barangay Red-V. Police said Sabinosa, who had four warrants of arrest for drug-related offenses, had been supplying about 100 grams of shabu to his clients every week. The city police also apprehended three suspected drug users.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hot logs seized

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Members of the 414th Quezon Police Mobile Group and officers of the local environment office confiscated 30 pieces of undocumented round logs floating along the Agos River in Barangay Anoling, Gen. Nakar town. The seized hot logs measured at least 2,000 board feet and valued at around P20,000. The forest products were turned over to the custody of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Real, Quezon. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

I dead in collision

KAWIT, Cavite—One person died while three others were seriously injured when two Isuzu passenger jeepneys collided in Barangay Batong Dalig on Monday, police said. Isaias Palaganas, owner of an Isuzu passenger-type jeepney bearing plate number DNX-847 and driven by Edison Montemayor, sustained injuries and rushed to the Family Hospital in Tanza but was pronounced dead on arrival. Injured were Zenaida Casara, of Ternate; Felisa Paras, of Naic; and Leonoro Tubla, also of Ternate. They were passengers of an Isuzu passenger-type jeepney with plate number DPA-352 owned and driven by Marcelino Miranda, 29, married, of Delpan, Tondo, Manila.

Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Calumpit holds river festival; 'Taong Putik' in Ecija town

CALUMPIT, Bulacan—This town, which boasts of the cleanest living river in Bulacan, celebrated the traditional Libad Festival (water procession) on Monday in honor of its patron saint, St. John the Baptist.

Decorated boats belonging to the town's 29 barangays, business establishments and non-government groups toured the stretch of the Calumpit River during the celebration.

The boats followed a bigger boat or *pagoda* where the image of St. John the Baptist was placed.

Officials said the river tour was the town's way of giving tribute to their patron saint for a year of abundance and blessings.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, a former Bulacan governor and Calumpit native, said the festival took its name from word *libad*, which means "iniikutan o nililibaran (a place that can be toured)."

Another highlight of the festival was the mass baptism held in the river.

Mayor Ramon Pagdanganan said the town's river remains the cleanest in Bulacan because of the cleansing effects of the baptismal rites.

"Our river is blessed, that's why our fishermen enjoy a bountiful catch," he said.

In Nueva Ecija, the annual "Taong Putik" ritual was held yesterday in Aliaga town to celebrate the feast of St. John the Baptist.

Starting at 4 a.m. Tuesday, hundreds of "Taong Putik," devotees covered in mud, banana leaves and vines, moved around Barangay Bibiclat in Aliaga and asked for alms from every house.

The devotees attended Mass in front of the church and joined the procession for the village's patron saint.

The devotees are Bibiclat natives who have vowed to honor their patron saint through the ritual for favors or answered prayers.

The ritual, according to accounts of older residents, is more than 100 years old. In 1876, settlers from Ilocos Sur came to Bibiclat and brought the image of their patron saint. Their immediate problem, which was the presence of a poisonous snake in the new place, was solved through the intercession of their patron saint.

The residents then started the ritual, which is also called "Pagsa-San Juan," as a form of thanksgiving.

Another account said that during World War II, the village's male residents were herded by Japanese soldiers in the plaza for execution. It rained hard and the prisoners were taken to the church.

The Japanese officers and men also sought refuge inside the church and the soldiers decided to free the prisoners. The residents believed that their patron saint caused the miracle and they held the ritual to thank St. John the Baptist for the miracle.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

AP

BIZARRE RITUAL
A young devotee wearing dried leaves with her body covered with mud lights candles outside a church in a bizarre religious tradition in the remote village of Bibiclat, Nueva Ecija yesterday. Devotees believe that performing the ritual would grant their wishes during the feast day of their patron saint, St. John the Baptist.

Former Cotabato gov dies of cardiac arrest

COTABATO CITY—Former North Cotabato Gov. Rosario Diaz, a staunch anti-Marcos activist, died of cardiac arrest at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital in Manila on Monday night, relatives announced on Tuesday.

Diaz, 63, was in the pink of health, when she figured in a vehicular accident on April 7. The accident prompted her confinement at the Davao Doctor's Hospital in for nearly two months.

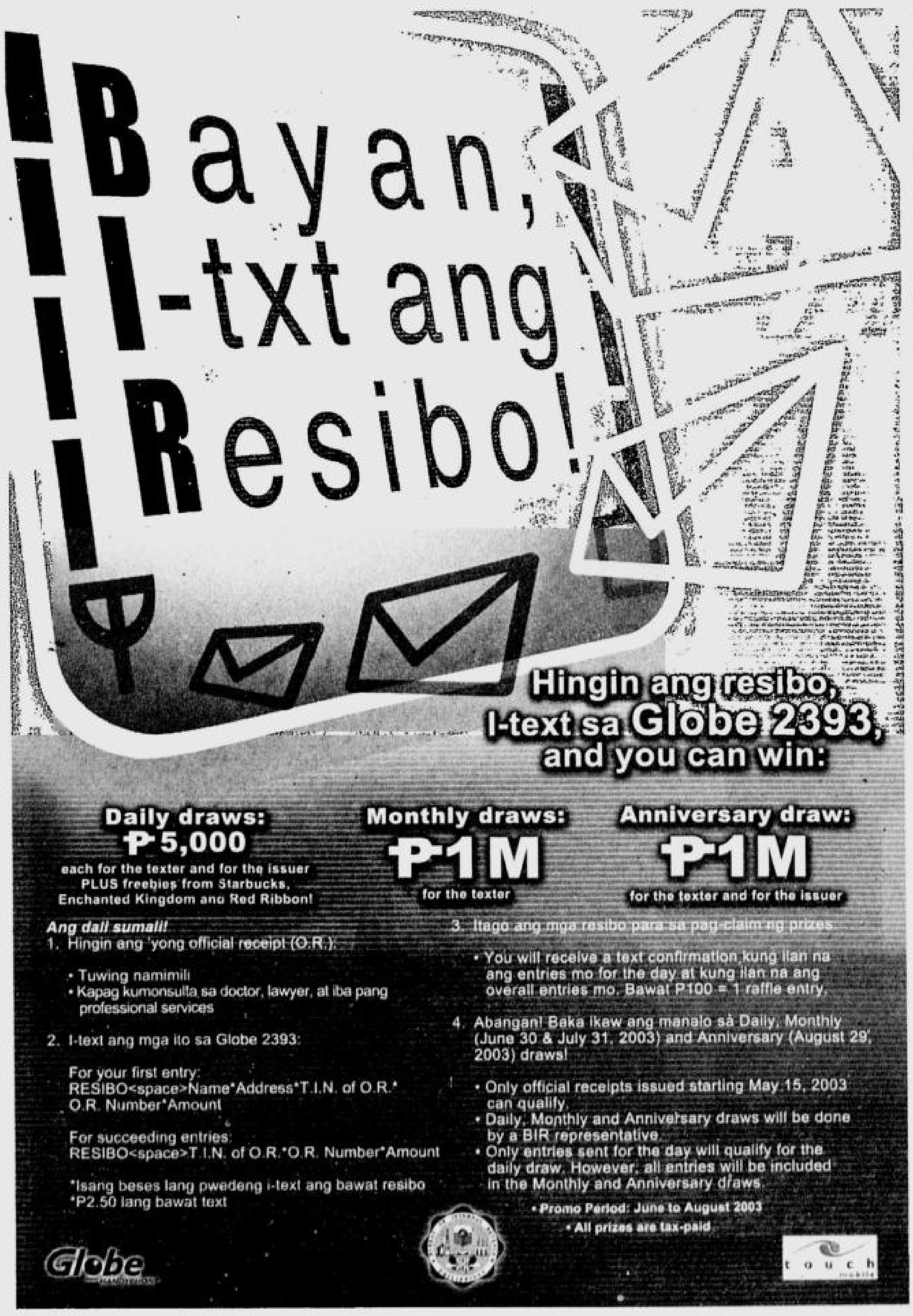
Diaz, a physician by profession, was active in the pre-Edsa protests in her hometown in Midsayap, North Cotabato and in Manila.

In 1986, she was appointed officer in charge-governor of North Cotabato. The following year, she was elected governor and had served three terms until 1995.

Incumbent Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said Diaz is remembered as the brains behind the construction of the new capitol building and other government structures in Barangay Amas, Kidapawan City. Diaz was also cited for her economic policy that allowed the province to save several millions of government funds and enabled her to implement all mandated salary increases of provincial employees.

Relatives said Diaz will be buried in Kawit, Cavite, where her parents had been laid to rest.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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4. Abangan! Baka ikaw ang manalo sa Daily, Monthly (June 30 & July 31, 2003) and Anniversary (August 29, 2003) draws!
   - Only official receipts issued starting May 15, 2003 can qualify.
   - Daily, Monthly and Anniversary draws will be done by a BIR representative.
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- Promo Period: June to August 2003
- All prizes are tax-paid

Globe
touch mobile

A FORTUNE
A beneficiary receives his title of land from Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Housing Czar Mike Defensor and Mayor Daisy Plaza. Some 128 members of the Fortune Ville Homeowners Association Inc. now own 250 to 275-square meter lands each, acquired through Pag-IBIG's Group Land Acquisition Development Program. The project is located in Butuan City.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

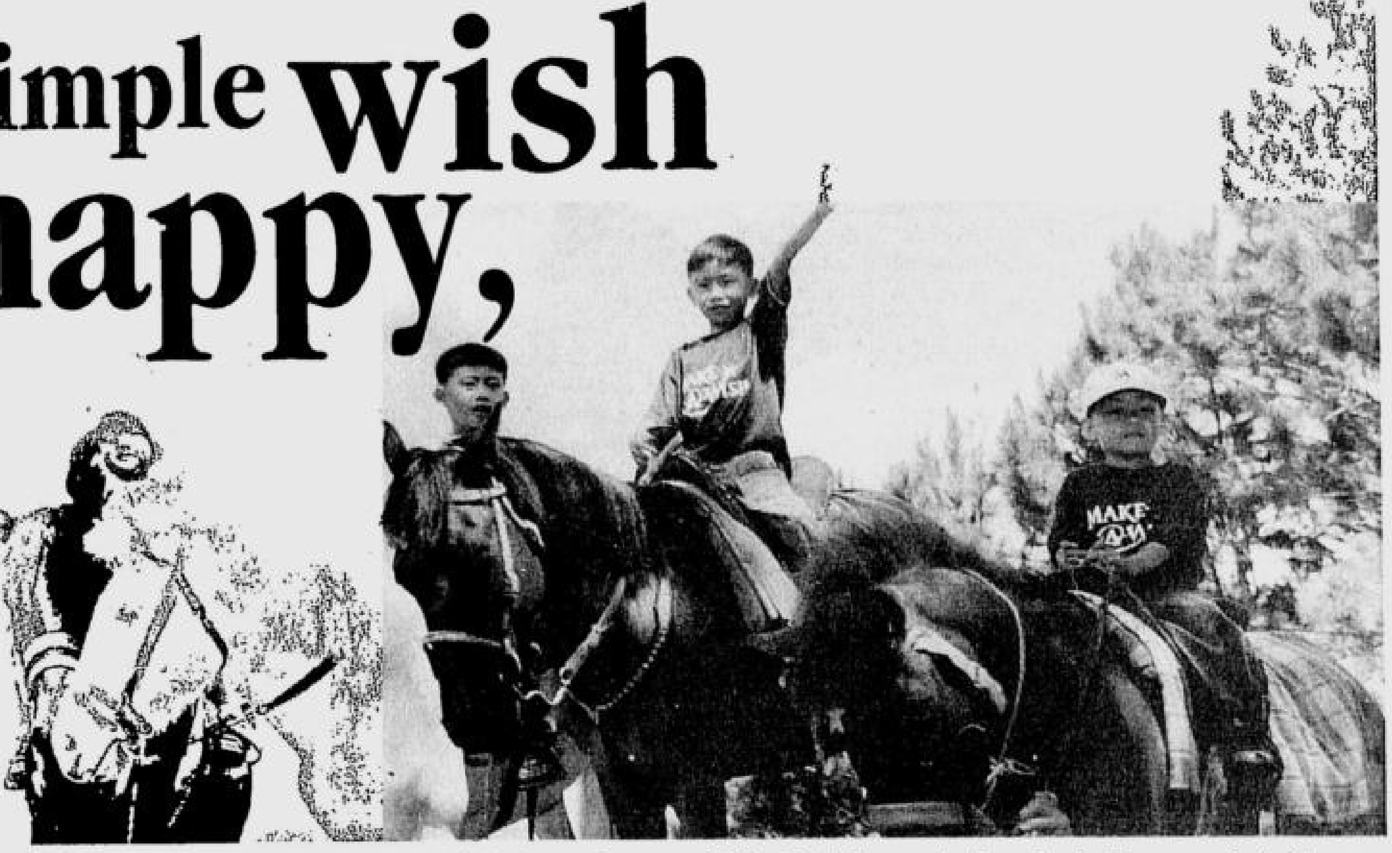
INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

'Making a simple wish makes us happy, fulfilled'

By Gobleth Moulic
Baguio City

THREE boys—two afflicted with cancer while the third is suffering from a complicated heart ailment—took time out from their chemotherapy sessions and other treatment schedules to fulfill their ardent wishes to go horseback riding and boating in Baguio City.



"WISH" KIDS (from left): Kim Moral, Joshua Jarapa, Job Alphonsus Jarapa and Rhinn Paul Obong enjoy horseback riding around a trail near the Baguio Country Club.

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

On Saturday, Rhinn Paul Obong, 3, Kim Gerald Moral, 6, and Job Alphonsus Jarapa, 7, did just that with their parents, who took a leave of absence from their jobs to spend time with the children.

The boys were happy and ecstatic when the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Philippines, a nongovernment organization that grants the wishes of terminally ill children, hosted them to leave their hospital beds and visit the country's summer capital.

Assisted by Aida Calagui, a nurse at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in Quezon City, Paul, Kim and Job shivered when a cold breeze greeted them as they jumped out of their bus on Friday night.

"*Ang saya-saya* (We're so happy)," Paul, the youngest among the three, said in Waray as soon as he arrived in the city.

A native of Catbalogan, Samar, Paul is suffering from lymphocytic leukemia and is undergoing several blood transfusions and bone marrow aspirations.

His father, Army Cpl. Rodelio Obong of the 19th Infantry Battalion based in Ormoc City, who celebrated his 28th birthday in Baguio on Saturday, said he had been longing to see his son recover from his ailment and go to school.

"He learned how to hold a pencil when he was 2 years old. He has been vocal about his ambition to go to school like his playmates. But he can't do that now as he has to undergo several treatments," said Obong, a first-time visitor to the city.

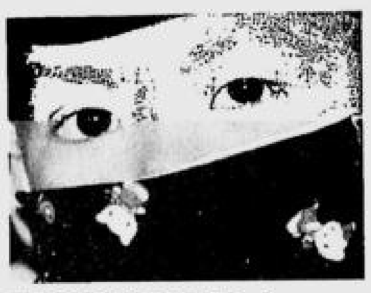
Paul, a patient of the AFP Medical Center since March 27, cheered when he saw the police trainees, who were sporting crew cuts, jogging at Teachers' Camp.

Unlike the police trainees, however, Paul has been wearing a baseball cap to hide his head, now bald due to the series of chemotherapy sessions.

"*Pareho daw silang kalbo* (They're also bald)," said Obong.

Obong's wife Arlene said it pained her whenever her son asked her when he would get well.

"He never complains when doctors insert several tubes in his body. He only wonders why his hair is thinning. All we can do to ease his pain is to provide everything he asks for—toys, shoes, new jeans and food from Jollibee," she said.



THREE-YEAR-OLD Paul

SIX-YEAR-OLD Kim

The problem, however, is his parents can not afford the expensive medical treatment as well as the toys he wants.

"We oftentimes rely on other people, like the people from 'Make-A-Wish,'" the Obong couple said.

Six-year-old Kim Gerald, on the other hand, looked healthy and strong unlike his friend and hospital roommate Paul.

While two other boys saluted the cadets at the Philippine Military Academy, Kim silently walked to the PMA's Philippine Air Force room and inspected the miniature aircraft enclosed in glass cases.

Asked what he wanted to do someday, he replied in Filipino: "Pilot. I want to fly a jet plane."

The articulate Kim, who has been undergoing chemotherapy sessions for three years now to treat his lymphocytic leukemia, later told the INQUIRER about his collections of toy planes and cars in their house in Cavite.

His father, Maj. Rodolfo Moral, who has been assigned to the PAF facility in Clark Field, Pampanga, said he had been pleading for his relatives, friends and even politicians to donate money for his youngest son's medical treatment since their savings have almost dried up. A chemotherapy costs P15,000 per session.

"*Kahit sundalo o lalaki, napapaiyak din* (I am a soldier, man, but I also cry because of my son's condition). At first we could not accept our son's illness. *Halos isumpa mo ang daigdig* (You could almost curse the world). But now we are surviving. He looks normal because he is responding well to his treatment. With my youngest son, I really feel like a father. Kim is very close to me," said Moral as he walked along with his son who rode the horse named Black Jones through a trail near the Baguio Country Club.

Job is the oldest, yet skinniest among the three children. His normal growth was hampered because his heart has a ventricular septic defect or VSD, a complicated ailment that needs operation.

Although it was his first time to meet Paul and Kim, he got along with them very well. Together, they rowed their boats at Burnham Lake, bought puppets of various colors at Burnham Park, ate cookies donated by Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. and ordered French fries and strawberry ice cream at the Baguio Country Club.

Kim appeared to be frail and weak but he wants to become a policeman. "*Ikukulong ko ang mga masasama* (I'll jail the criminals)," he said when asked why he wanted to become a law enforcer.

His parents—Jose Wense, a machine operator, and Mary Jane—said their eldest son wanted to meet comedian Vic Sotto because he watches him a lot on TV.

"*Gwapo kasi siya* (He's handsome)," Job said.

Beth Jayobo, hospice coordinator of the Philippine Children's Medical Center, said it was Job's second time to visit Baguio but he had asked the hospital staff to take him again to the city.

When Make-A-Wish volunteers—Mina and Amor Herrera, Miguel Buncio, Winston Chua, Averyl Ong and Tina Garcia—learned about it, they obliged.

"Making a simple wish makes us happy and fulfilled. That's the thrust of our foundation—to give strength, joy and comfort to special children. Their smiles make us complete," Buncio said.

For donations, Make-A-Wish Foundation can be reached at (02) 812-6545 or at its web address www.bestwish.org.

Study shows over 3 million [illegible] have Diabete[illegible]

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'Dirty Harry' warned: No 'untouchables' here

From page A1

conduct operations anywhere in the country," he told the INQUIRER.

Malacañang's decision to enlist the help of the so-called "Four Aces" has reportedly led to grumblings from Interior Secretary Jose Lina, also Dangerous Drugs Board chair, and Avenido.

Real drug czar

Lina claims to be the country's real drug czar.

As DDB chair and interior secretary, Lina heads the biggest anti-drug network in the country supported by the Philippine National Police, including the PDEA, and all local government units, according to a statement released by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Lina earlier said he had mobilized the country's 43,645 anti-drug abuse councils, 79 provincial governors, 115 city mayors, 1,495 town mayors and 41,956 barangay chairs to help the government fight illegal drugs. "We will work together in planning, implementation and evaluation on drug abuse prevention," he said.

From January to March 2003, the DILG, through the PNP, conducted 4,269 buy-bust operations against illegal drugs, which resulted in the arrest of 4,843 people and the confiscation of drugs valued at P274.088 million. During the same period, 15 foreigners—two Americans, eight Chinese, one Taiwanese, one Israeli and three Pakistanis—were arrested for drug abuse and trafficking.

The President is seeking to head off any brewing turf war. Ms Macapagal has called on all law enforcement agencies to coordinate their efforts.

Big push

"We have now completed the anti-drug team. I want all enforcement agencies to prepare for the big push forward and I will demand close coordination of strategies, intelligence and resources or more teamwork and synergy," she said in a statement.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the "worst thing that can happen to the campaign is for us to be divided against this national menace."

He said this was the reason Ms Macapagal wanted to firm up the action plans in the drug campaign that would outline the responsibilities of the parties involved.

LIM

AVENIDO

Delineate roles

Bunye said that "this administration adheres to the principle of separation of powers. Rest assured that this will be strictly followed."

The presidential spokesperson said Ms Macapagal was seriously considering giving the "Four Aces" official titles to delineate their roles in the anti-drug campaign but he reiterated that the PDEA would remain as the principal agency created by law to enforce the anti-drug policy.

Lim, who once served as interior secretary and National Bureau of Investigation director, said he accepted his new post on the appeal of his friend Barbers. He said that as former lawmen, he and Barbers were aware of the influence of illegal drugs in the commission of crimes.

"I want the President's campaign to succeed and I'll do everything I can to help her," Lim said.

In interviews over radio stations dzMM and dzBB, Lim said he would not infringe on the daily duties of the PDEA. He said he would help the agency hunt drug lords.

Spray painting

To kick off his campaign against the drug menace, Lim announced he would revive the controversial "spray-paint" campaign, which he used against alleged drug pushers in Manila in 1997 when he was the mayor to shame them. The drive labelled houses of people, who had been charged in court or the prosecutor's office, as those of drug peddlers.

Avenido shot down Lim's plan, saying that the Supreme Court had declared it illegal.

Avenido assured the public that no human rights would be violated in the war against illegal drugs. "All actions should be made in accordance with the law," he said.

Lim implemented the "spray-paint" campaign on the strength of a city ordinance. He said the Supreme Court annulled the ordinance "due to technicalities." Lim said he may seek guidelines from the high tribunal on how to implement the law properly.

Like Avenido, Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay, chief of the Philippine National Police's anti-drug task force, is cool to the "spray-paint" idea.

Aglipay said the PNP would put in place an alternative and yet legal shame campaign. The names of suspected drug pushers, who had been charged in court, would be published in community newspapers, according to him.

"This way, suspects can't complain about any irregularity because there are already cases against them," he said. *With a report from Nelson Flores*

Erratum

Alfredo Lim was named Manila mayor, instead of former Manila mayor, in yesterday's page one story "'Dirty Harry' gets marching orders.'

'Scurrilous and outright lies,' says Governor Barbers

"THESE are scurrilous and outright lies," Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers said of reports that the province and Surigao City were awash in illegal drugs.

Malicious reports intended to discredit the leadership in the city and the province have been circulated by the opposition for personal and political gains, he said in a statement.

He said Surigaonons were witness to the gains of his campaign to put a stop to illegal drug trafficking and use in the province.

Records of law enforcement agencies showed that his strikes against illegal drug traffickers resulted in the great reduction in the flow of illegal drugs into the province, according to Barbers.

Before he launched his anti-drug campaign in August 2002, the provincial office of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency placed incidence of drug trafficking and use in the province at 30 percent, the governor said.

Barbers' bailiwick drug haven, says report

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo stressed the need for the involvement of local officials and residents in the anti-drug campaign.

"The province's long coastline has been the favorite drop off points of the syndicates for their illegal drugs that enter the country," she said.

The President asked officials to use anti-poverty programs in the fight against the illegal drug trade. "Every Filipino has a stake in his total war to save our society," she said.

In separate interviews, Barbers and Avenido said drug abuse in the Caraga region, including Surigao City, was "very minimal."

Barbers told the INQUIRER in the Senate that his son, Surigao Gov. Lyndon Barbers, had effectively carried out anti-drug campaigns in the province.

Not alarming

"We have a drug problem in Surigao, but it is not alarming," said Barbers. "During the Kapihan sa Maynila forum last week, I admitted that the drug syndicates had penetrated Caraga, but local officials are now going after them."

In a phone interview, Avenido said Caraga was not included in the list of areas with high drug incidence. "I don't have specific data right now, but definitely, it's not true," he said.

"In fact, the anti-drug campaign there is very efficient," said Avenido.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police director, echoed the same view.

He told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that records showed that there were no big drug busts in the region since last year. "Our biggest drug bust only involved 200 grams of shabu last week. Drug supply ... is not that big here," Olario said.

He said it was improbable that illegal drugs would proliferate in Surigao City because it was situated at the tip of Caraga peninsula.

"Drugs have been reported in the towns of Butuan and Bayugan, not in Surigao," Olario said.

He disclosed that Butuan and Bayugan were the home of Maranaos, "who are the ones pushing drugs in the region."

NUMBER OF PUSHERS IN PDEA'S DRUG WATCH LIST APRIL 2003

Region	Number
Metro Manila	3,659
Southern Tagalog	3,407
Central Luzon	2,411
Central Visayas	1,310
Zamboanga Peninsula	757
Western Visayas	650
Cagayan Valley	544
Northern Mindanao	402
Eastern Visayas	399
Caraga	363
Ilocos Region	286
ARMM	202
Davao Region	160
CAR	89
Bicol	54
SOCCKSARGEN	19
Total	14,712

INQGRAPHIC: Erno Sambo

Although the region was not a haven for illegal drugs, "we're still doubling our efforts in eradicating this menace," Olario said.

With Barbers' role as anti-drug czar, Olario expressed the hope that the drug problem would soon be contained.

Supt. Glenn de la Torre, regional director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, said addressing the drug problem would require total war against several politicians serving as protectors or patrons of the drugs trade.

PDEA agents positive for drugs

Another police officer said the involvement of some policemen in the illegal drug trade was making the campaign more difficult.

Recently, four police junior officers, including two PDEA agents, tested positive during a random drug testing of police personnel.

Olario said summary dismissal hearings were being conducted against PO1 Verihan Arellano and PO2 Edwin Quejada of the Butuan City police and PO3 Danilo Dacillo and PO3 Arnel Lumaway of the PDEA.

Councilor Salvador Benjie Calo, chair of the committee on police matters, said the test results strengthened suspicions that a number of policemen were into the drugs trade themselves.

"More heads will definitely roll as part of the effort to cleanse the PNP of addicts in uniforms," Olario told the INQUIRER.

His warning came even as armed men gunned down a former policeman in a known drug district in the city on Friday.

The police director of the four-island Mimaropa sub-region in Southern Tagalog said the government should start its campaign against illegal drugs at the grassroots level.

Senior Supt. Alexander Lapinid, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) police director, said government agencies involved in the ant-drug war must start with ridding the streets of small drug peddlers and users.

Duterte warns

The drug problem has affected 99 barangays in the region's island-provinces and is threatening 94 others, according to Lapinid.

In Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte vowed no mercy for drug pushers but promised to run after killers of innocent civilians.

"You, drug addicts. You better stop. If you will not stop, then you will be stopped," Duterte said.

He said the local government would make ensure that the drug problem in Davao City was solved.

Southern Mindanao police director Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, said the three-month deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the police to eradicate the country's drug problem was achievable.

But opposition Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Vicente Sotto III expressed doubts that the Macapagal administration could lick the drug menace in three months' time.

At a press conference in the Senate, Biazon claimed it would take a "miracle" to do that.

"But the real question is, 'Who is going to do the miracle?'" said Biazon, adding that a three-year period was more realistic. ***With reports from Marlon Ramos and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila***

Drug test? No problem, says GMA

PRESIDENT Macapgal-Arroyo is willing to submit herself to a drug test.

"As far as the President is concerned, she sees no problem with the drug test," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye was reacting to calls for ranking government officials to undergo drug tests.

A group of government workers urged yesterday the administration to set an example and conduct drug tests on ranking government officials.

In a statement, Esperanza Ocampo, president of the Philippine Government Employees Association, also expressed support for random drug testing of government employees. However, Ocampo said that the results of the exams should be kept confidential and that employees found positive for drug use should be rehabilitated.

Invoking leadership by example, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the First Family and the families of four other top officials of the land should take drug tests to give moral ascendancy to the government's renewed drive against illegal drugs.

Padilla said that while he was certain that the First Couple and their children were drug-free, still the act of submitting themselves to a drug test would "dramatize that the First Family is at the forefront of the effort to combat illegal drugs."

He said the families of the Vice President, the Senate President, the House Speaker and the Supreme Court Chief Justice should also submit themselves to the test.

Padilla said Filipinos would greatly appreciate the decision of these powerful families to undergo a drug test. "There will be no image that will be more powerful than this. The message that the government is serious about fighting the drug menace will be conveyed in very strong terms," he said.

He said he, too, supported the mandatory drug testing for members of Congress and their families. "Only more than 200 families will be covered. We can do it in one day." ***Reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana and Martin P. Marfil***

Farmers see tobacco ...

From page A1

further as they continue to lose money," Cachola told the INQUIRER.

He said that as it was, many of the association's member-cooperatives had been hard put to collect on loan payments from farmers saddled by production losses this year.

The Ilocos accounts for close to 80 percent of the nationwide tobacco production. Nearly half of the regional production comes from Ilocos Sur.

The Solidarity of Peasants Against Exploitation (Stop-Ex) said tobacco farmers, especially those in the Ilocos, expected a rapid drop in the selling price of tobacco leaves of P46-48 a kilo.

Stop-Ex, which is allied with the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), has been lobbying for a selling price of P65 a kilo for Virginia-grade tobacco. But according to Stop-Ex secretary general Avelino Dacanay, price levels at the farmgate reach only P10-15 a kilo for the so-called "rejects."

"Our demand to raise prices to P65 per kilo regardless of classification is very little compared to the millions [of pesos] that cigarette companies make," Dacanay said.

KMP spokesperson Jim Fernando said "unscrupulous tobacco traders could capitalize on and use the law as leverage to further lower tobacco prices."

"Lucio Tan and other big-time tobacco traders are the biggest beneficiaries of the law," Fernando said in an interview in Manila.

Tan's Fortune Tobacco Corp. is the reported No. 1 buyer of raw tobacco in the country, buying an estimated 57 percent of the total production last crop year.

On Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law RA 9211, which sets more stringent rules on and stiffer penalties for smoking in public enclosed places, sale of cigarettes to minors, and product labeling and advertising.

The President said yesterday that the government's anti-smoking campaign needed public support as broad as that extended to the drive against the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and illegal drugs.

"I ask for the full cooperation of the public in taking care of ourselves and our country. The health of every Filipino is an overriding national concern," she said during her inspection of the South Luzon bypass road project in Tiaong, Quezon.

"It falls within the same framework of our successful anti-SARS and anti-drug campaign and other programs geared toward a healthier, stronger, more energetic and forward-looking society," she said.

Better options

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, author of the tobacco excise tax law (RA 7171), said the farmers in the province anticipated and prepared for the implementation of the new law when the worldwide anti-smoking campaign started.

"We have embarked on irrigation projects to give farmers better options in case they change crops," he said, adding, however, that the demand for tobacco would still be there even with RA 9211.

"Our farmers will still plant tobacco," he said.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, co-author of the new law, said the government should seriously consider giving financial assistance to farmers, particularly those depending on the shares from RA 7171.

Cachola said that with RA 9211, farmers were being forced to consider a shift to alternative crops, like peanuts and soybeans.

But he conceded that the law would have benefits, particularly concerning minors. "We can now see so many minors smoking. They should be stopped, to reduce the medical expenses of their parents," he said.

Stop-Ex chair Juan Dawa lauded the passage of the law but expressed fears that it would not be fully implemented.

"If the implementors are smokers, will they wholeheartedly enforce the law?" Dawa said, adding that the government should also explore other uses of tobacco to help farmers cope with the effects of the law.

In Pampanga, Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, principal author of RA 9211, said the new law was aimed at "protecting the general public from smoke emitted by cigars, cigarettes and tobacco pipes" that "could contribute to respiratory illnesses."

Rodriguez, a lawyer who is also the author of the medical malpractice bill, said the law was intended to "instill responsibility" among smokers and sellers of tobacco products.

He said RA 9211 required the creation of programs and projects that would ensure its effective implementation and its "proactive" nature.

These programs and projects should be focused on research and development, scholarships for dependents of tobacco growers, assistance to displaced tobacco growers and cigarette factory workers to find alternative sources of income, and health programs dealing with smoking-related diseases, he said.

Not against the law

"We are not against the law against smoking. It's the resulting situation that we are against," the KMP's Fernando said.

He said tobacco farmers would not be able to readily shift to other crops such as vegetables because their land had been accustomed to tobacco farming.

At any rate, he said, shifting to other crops was not their current concern.

"The concern is still the increase of the price of tobacco leaves to P65 per kilo," Fernando said. "With the passage of the law, traders now have the advantage of citing [it] as an excuse to further lower their buying price."

At least 1,667 sticks of cigarettes, or 83 packs, can be made out of a kilo of raw tobacco.

Fernando also said other crops such as vegetables would likewise be subject to bargain-basement prices brought about by globalization trends. ***With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

No Con-Ass for us–Drilon

Senate committee to vote on July 14

By Christine Avendano

IT'S unlikely the Senate would choose the mode of a constituent assembly—the fast-track option Speaker Jose de Venecia prefers—despite a string of newspaper advertisements advocating this mode, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

The 14-member Senate committee on constitutional amendments votes on the Charter change initiative on July 14—in about three weeks.

Drilon said Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Sen. John Osmeña, who are members of the committee, told him it was unlikely the panel would muster the required eight votes to approve the convening of a constituent assembly as the mode for Charter change.

"The feeling of the two senators is that there are no eight votes needed to endorse (the mode of) constituent assembly," Drilon told a news conference.

The two senators were in the "best position to assess how each member feels," he said.

Thus, the "logical destination" of any Senate resolution that does not get past a Senate committee is to be archived.

Flavier, in a phone interview, said the outcome of a meeting held last month by the committee chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara was his basis for telling Drilon yesterday that a resolution endorsing the constituent assembly mode would not be approved.

In that meeting, Flavier said they made a "head count" of the senators, and he recalled that besides him, Senators Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. were against it.

The other day, Arroyo said that the mode of constituent assembly or even the referendum or constitutional convention was unlikely to get past the Senate committee due to the absence of eight votes on all three options.

Drilon also told reporters that he doesn't know whether the full-page newspaper ads calling for Charter changes would be able to influence members of the Senate committee.

"I do not know that the (ads) can influence the members of the committee and that it can bring the eight votes to the Senate," he said.

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Palace's ...

From page A1

standing their statements, were not serious in wanting political reform through a shift to a federal system of government.

"They only want to keep power at the top. They want to continue the colonial system of a centralized government. It's the status quo," he said.

Last week, Gonzales told the INQUIRER that a transition president is needed until a shift from the presidential to a parliamentary government is in place.

Practically confirmed

Yesterday, De Venecia all but confirmed the role of Ms Macapagal in the Charter change movement, when he issued a statement saying she was "already preparing the ground" for the "grandmother of all reforms."

De Venecia said the "initiative to amend certain provisions" of the Charter is the "third wave of reforms" that Ms Macapagal will implement.

"We will amend it and give the Philippines a 21st-century constitution," said De Venecia, who co-chairs the ruling Lakas-CMD party with Ms Macapagal.

Gonzales, the presidential adviser for special concerns, earlier said Malacañang was supporting House-initiated moves to amend the Constitution.

Federal system

Abueva's group, the National Movement for a Federal Philippines, is pushing for a parliamentary form in a federal system.

Under their proposal, the president is elected by members of the parliament and the state assemblies. The president would serve only one term.

But Malacañang's study group on constitutional changes is looking at allowing reelection for Ms Macapagal.

"That's being contemplated," said Camilo Sabio, the former president of the Philippine Constitution Association who chairs the group.

"That's being debated, because in some countries (with parliamentary governments) the president is allowed reelection," he added.

Gonzales organized the study group a year ago.

Abueva said the draft constitution of both De Venecia and Gonzales' study group provides for a nationally elected president.

"To me that's foolish, because you create two centers of power (the president and the prime minister). That will cause confusion," he said.

This would defeat the idea of combined executive and legislative powers in a parliamentary system, he said.

Sabio did not deny that his group was contemplating a nationally elected president in a parliamentary setup.

"We leave that to the constituent assembly because that's a political decision," he said.

Ms Macapagal has said she would not run anymore. But her allies are persuading her to reconsider.

Some may want her to continue in power through a new constitution.

'3rd wave of reforms'

De Venecia did not elaborate on Ms Macapagal's stance on Charter change, but he noted that she has "regained political ground" recently.

De Venecia was apparently referring to Ms Macapagal's successful state visit to the United States in May, which she followed up with a number of initiatives back home.

De Venecia said the "third wave of reforms" follows the first wave launched by then President Corazon Aquino, involving the return of democracy in the country, and the second wave by her successor, Fidel Ramos, consisting of economic reforms.

In March, the House passed Concurrent Resolution No. 16 seeking to convene the Senate and the House into a constituent assembly.

But the Senate committee on constitutional reforms, chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara, has yet to vote on the measure and forward the report for floor debates in the Senate. The Angara committee has scheduled a vote on July 14.

In Angeles City the other day, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo led the launch of the Central Luzon leg of Bayan Muna's campaign against moves to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Ocampo, a Kapampangan from Sta. Rita town, said the "No (Network Opposed) to Cha-Cha" was launched in Pampanga to "send a strong message" to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who also hails from the province.

Ocampo pointed to a "Malacañang-led Cha-Cha conspiracy" after Gonzales admitted he was coordinating efforts to introduce amendments to the Charter, he said.

With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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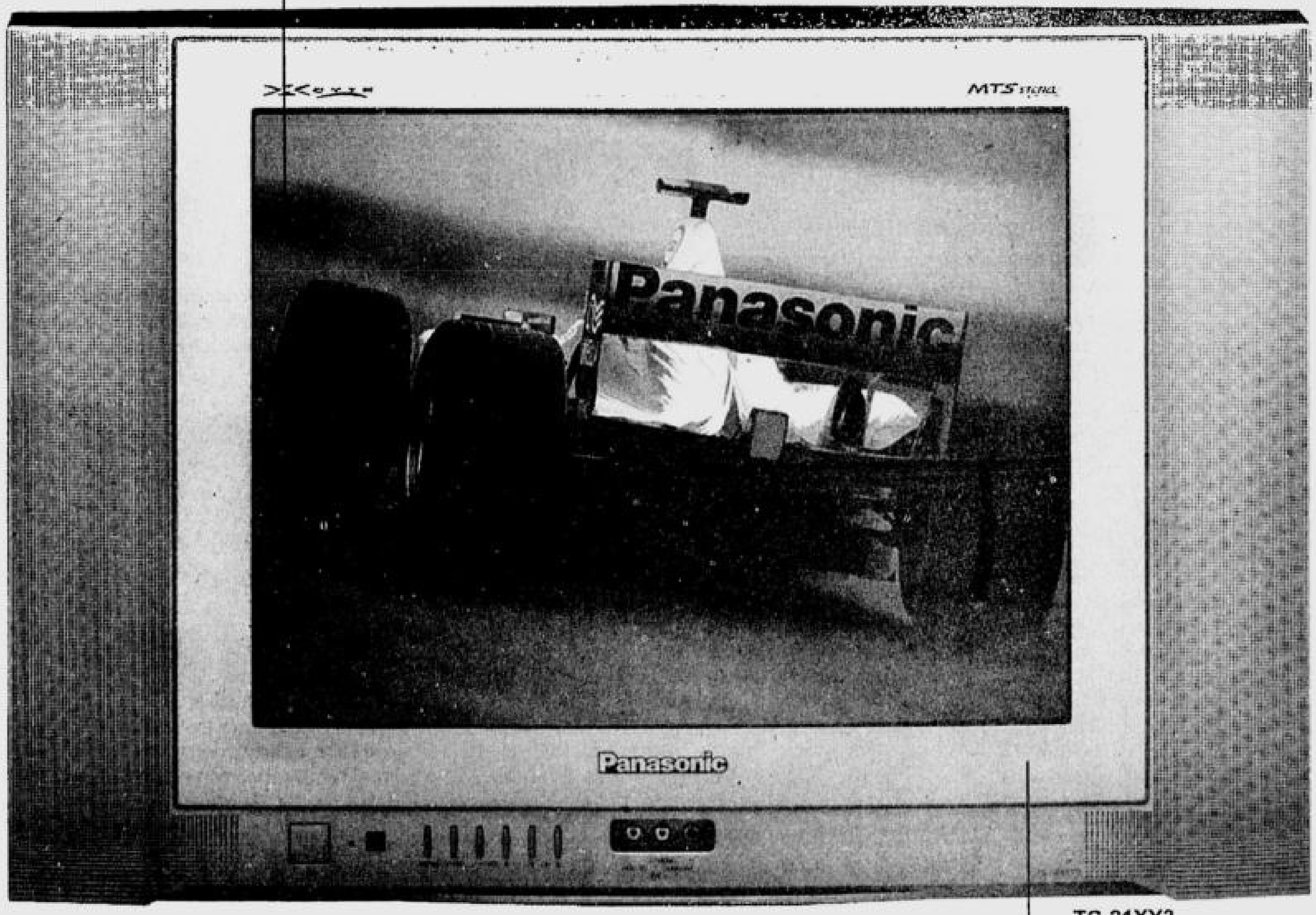

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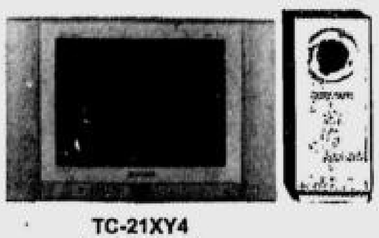

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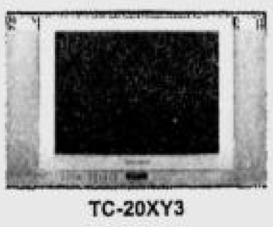

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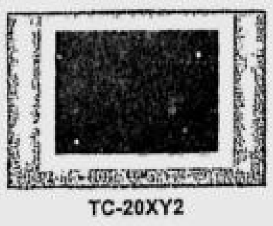

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Cayetano dies of stomach cancer; 68

From page A1

THE WARMTH of family embraced Cayetano's final days spent in his home in Ayala Alabang after his arrival on June 5 from the United States. ERIK ARAZAS

donor.

His death leaves 12 pro-administration senators and 10 opposition senators in the chamber.

Agence France Presse quoted a spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying that Cayetano had "a great vision for our country," and she was saddened by news of his death.

In a statement, the Cayetano family expressed thanks to "the Filipino people for allowing [the senator] to serve them and make him part of their life."

The family asked mourners not to bring flowers but to send donations to the Cayetano Foundation Inc. "that will be used to fund the various charitable projects of the senator."

Had not his liver ailment intervened, Cayetano was to have assumed the Senate presidency in December 2002 in accordance with a power-sharing agreement with the incumbent, Franklin Drilon.

Reached by phone last night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, from where he was set to fly to Canberra, Australia, Drilon said Cayetano's death was "a personal loss."

"Rene was more than a colleague," Drilon said. "He had been a friend for 30 years, and in fact I am the godfather of Lino, his youngest son. He is a loss to the Senate and to the country."

Drilon visited Cayetano at his home a day after he arrived from the United States.

"He told me at the time that, certainly, he was looking forward to resuming his duties in the Senate," Drilon said.

Debility

The statement issued by the family said Cayetano succumbed to "progressive debility as a result of intra-abdominal cancer."

It said there was no evidence of the cancer at the time of the surgery performed "to replace his liver, which was destroyed by chronic hepatitis B."

It also said medical specialists diagnosed the cancer as "having come from his previous liver."

There was hardly any reference to the cancer when the INQUIRER spoke with Cayetano and his family at their home on June 13.

All of Cayetano's four children with his wife Sandra Schramm volunteered to be the organ donor, but in end it was Lino, a filmmaking graduate of the New York University, who emerged the fittest.

Lino donated 60 percent of his liver to his father, who only learned of the donor's identity two days after the surgery.

In the INQUIRER interview, the Cayetanos described the whole experience as an emotional and spiritual journey they had made together.

The senator, in a rare tearful moment before a reporter, recalled experiencing an encounter with the divine at their rented apartment in Pasadena, California, shortly before the dawn of Christmas Day 2002.

He said he saw a "flash of bright light" hurtle through his bedroom and surmised that God must have sent him a "message."

YOUNGEST Cayetano child, Lino, who donated 60 percent of his liver to his father shows his scar saying, "I know in my heart that my dad would have done the same thing for his parents." ERIK ARAZAS

THE LIVER transplant done in February in the United States was successful. Three months later, doctors discovered "a number of tumors" in his abdomen that may have come from his previous liver. ERIK ARAZAS

Cayetano's wife Sandra said that after that incident, he became the family's spiritual leader.

'Compañero'

The other members of the senator's immediate family are his daughter, lawyer Pia Cayetano-Sebastian, her husband Ariben Sebastian, and their children Maxine and Nadine, and his son, Muntinlupa Councilor Rene Carl Cayetano.

Cayetano had humble beginnings. On Dec. 12, 1934, he was born to mechanic Pedro Santiago Cayetano of Marilao, Bulacan, and public school teacher Julianna Cabrera Luna of Pateros.

Popularly known as "Compañero," after his public service program on TV and radio that offered free legal advice, Cayetano was a product of public school education.

He completed degrees in political science and law at the University of the Philippines, and received scholarship grants at the University of Michigan in the United States where he acquired three postgraduate degrees in public administration and law.

WITH American-born wife Sandra who said after her husband returned home early this month, "Every day for us is now a treasure, a permanent vacation where little things become important."

He was active in private law practice, and served as private prosecutor in the rape case involving the late starlet Pepsi Paloma and in the Manila Filmfest scandal on behalf of then Mayor Alfredo Lim.

He served as co-defense counsel for the late journalist Luis Beltran in the libel case filed against him by then President Corazon Aquino. Beltran was later acquitted.

He was a founding partner of the Cayetano, Sebastian, Dado and Cruz Law Office, chair of the House of Delegates and governor of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and, with Juan Ponce Enrile, co-founder of the Pecabar (Ponce Enrile Cayetano Bautista & Reyes) Law Offices.

His political career started in 1984 when he was elected assemblyman of the Batasan Pambansa. He was later appointed deputy trade minister and administrator of the Export Processing Zone Authority (now Philippine Export Zone Authority).

In 1995, President Fidel Ramos appointed Cayetano chief presidential counsel. He was also named vice chair of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

In 1998, Ramos conferred on him the Legion of Honor.

No. 2

Cayetano was elected senator in May 1998, receiving the second highest number of votes in the process.

As a neophyte senator, he was chair of the committee on justice and human rights and vice chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs. He was also the minority leader of the Commission on Appointments and was a member of the Judicial Bar Council.

Before the 11th Congress adjourned, he became the Senate minority floor leader, making him an ex-officio member of all Senate committees.

Impeachment trial

During the historic impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, he was one of the 10 senator-judges who voted for the opening of the second envelope concerning the "Jose Velarde" account.

He authored eight laws, including Republic Act No. 9163, which makes the Reserve Officers' Training Course an optional course for college students; RA 9006, or the Fair Elections Act; RA 8799, the Securities Regulation Code; RA 8749, the Clean Air Act; RA 8792, the E-Commerce Law; and RA 9139, the Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000.

At the time of his death, he was chair of the Senate committee on energy and co-chair of the joint congressional power commission. *With a report from PDI Research*

Christmas in June for Children's Hour

From page A1

P500,000. That brought the total amount of donations it has raised in Pampanga since last month to P2 million.

"What a great deal we can do by giving a little," said Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, chair of the Children's Hour, during the program attended by some 200 representatives of Clark-based establishments.

Launched in 1999, the Children's Hour has already raised P65 million from 675 corporate donors, 844 individuals and more than 200,000 employees—each donating one hour's worth of earnings to help improve the plight of poor Filipino children.

The 71 projects it has implemented with 60 organizations have assisted close to 100,000 street children, child workers, victims of sexual and physical abuse and sick children.

The movement's Pampanga chapter, led by Tony de Leon and Jose Lazatin, earlier raised P1.4 million in the City of San Fernando alone. Lazatin said the Pampanga launch had lived up to its "Christmas in June" theme.

Children's Hour vice chair Gina Lopez, former Ambassador Bienvenido Tan, businessman Michael Escaler and INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, also the Children's Hour project director, joined the launch.

CHILDREN'S HOUR LAUNCHING
(PAMPANGA CHAPTER)
children's hour
CHRISTMAS in JUNE
24 JUNE 2003

CHILDREN'S Hour is launched at Clark Air Base in Pampanga as it encourages more regions in the country to participate in the cause. From left: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Children's Hour chair; PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, project director; Gina Lopez, vice chair; Bienvenido Tan; Linda Pinera, HR manager, Holiday Inn Clark Field; and their Pampanga counterparts Carmen Mcfavish, president of Clark Investors and Locators Association; and Benhur Gomez, president of Omni Aviation. TONETTE OREJAS/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

The state-owned Clark Development Corp. and the Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila) adopted the Children's Hour as a continuing project, committing to mobilize resources from some 300 companies inside the zone, according to Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president.

Organizers said pledges from 25 more companies were on the way, and inquiries were still coming in even after the program at the Clark Museum ended.

The program featured children-beneficiaries and some of the organizations helping them.

Some 20 Aeta children from the Kalangitan resettlement in Tarlac danced the "talapi" to tell of the survival of an aspect of their indigenous culture. An Aeta girl read a letter expressing their yearning to complete education.

And 12-year-old Jolis Yanga told of how an hour of donations changed his life. The boy stopped selling sampaguita garlands, studied full time through a grant from the Social Action Center of Pampanga, one of Children's Hour's partners in the province.

On Thursday, Yanga displayed the medal he received as the valedictorian of his class in Mansgold in the city of San Fernando.

"Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat (Thank you very much)," said Yanga.

"Did you ever ride a pedicab? Do you know what a pedicab is? That's what your cars honk at when you're late and rushing. That's what my father drives to earn money," he said, to appreciative laughter.

Seated at the last row, his mother, carrying Yanga's 2-year-old sister, just smiled.

"The Children's Hour is a painless way for people to participate (in efforts to help disadvantaged Filipino children)," Zobel said.

DANTE TAN

Dante Tan stinks up Australian politics

From page A1

tion legislator had also received a campaign donation from Tan, and had also failed to report it.

An embarrassed Australian opposition, under newly reelected opposition Labor leader Simon Crean, immediately called for an investigation into the claim.

The opposition-controlled Senate last week launched an inquiry into the allegations against Ruddock, who has strongly denied granting any favors in return for donations to the party headed by Prime Minister John Howard.

"For three weeks now we've been questioning Minister Ruddock about a series of immigration matters in which donations to the Liberal Party and the allocation of visas appear to have gone hand in hand," opposition immigration spokesperson Julia Gillard said last week.

"We are still waiting for answers to those very important matters about the integrity of the immigration system."

But on Monday, Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbott told Parliament that a senior Labor member of Parliament had also taken a donation of A$9,880 from Tan prior to the 2001 federal election.

No disclosure

Worse, the Labor MP in question had also failed to disclose the donation, contrary to Australian electoral laws, Abbott said.

"It is not illegal to make donations, but it is illegal not to disclose them," Abbott told Parliament. "It is very much illegal to launder money."

Labor Sen. Nick Bolkus, immigration minister in the former Labor government of Prime Minister Paul Keating, promptly owned up to being the MP in question, but denied he had given Tan anything in return.

Labor MP Wayne Swan called yesterday for an investigation into claims against Bolkus.

"If the government has any allegations they should be investigated by the Australian Electoral Commission," Swan told reporters.

Ruddock has been the target for weeks of opposition claims that he used his ministerial power to grant residential visas after money was donated to the ruling Liberal Party.

In one case, Ruddock was said to have intervened personally to renew a visa for Tan after he donated A$10,000 to the minister's 2001 election campaign.

Tan, who is accused of pulling off the corporate fraud scandal that helped oust Joseph Estrada in 2001, fled Australia this month, after the issue came to light. *AFP*

Singapore, KL cited least friendly cities

From page A1

two cities are likely to help a blind man or pick up a pen only half as often.

This unwillingness to lend a helping hand makes the two cities the least friendly places in Southeast Asia and indeed the world, according to a six-year study by a group of social psychologists led by Dr. Robert Levine, a professor at California State University in Fresno.

Levine and a group of 21 psychology students visited 23 cities and conducted live street experiments to find out which environments best encouraged altruism, and which cities had people most willing to assist others.

They conducted three tests—feigning to be blind, pretending to have an injured leg and accidentally dropping a pen. Then they noted how many people stopped to help.

Altogether, Levine's group ran almost 300 "blind" trials, dropped more than 400 pens and approached about 500 people while pretending to have hurt a leg, the US professor said in an article on the study that was published in this month's edition of American Scientist magazine.

Most friendly city

The results showed Rio de Janeiro as the most friendly city. The Brazilian city scored full marks in the pen and blind person test and residents helped a hurt person eight times out of 10.

In contrast, Singapore was third from the bottom at 21st place, just one spot above New York. Kuala Lumpur was ranked last.

In Singapore, pens were returned only a third of the time, and an injured person and a blind man assisted less than half the time.

The fact that Latin American cities as well as poor cities like Lilongwe in Malawi and Calcutta in India hogged top spots on the researchers' list led Levine to conclude: Generally, cities where people had less disposable income, experienced a slower pace of life and had a culture that valued social harmony were the friendliest places.

There were exceptions, however.

"Pedestrians in the fast-paced cities of Copenhagen and Vienna were very kind to strangers, whereas their counterparts in slower-paced Kuala Lumpur were not helpful at all," Levine noted.

He also said that people in more crowded cities were less likely to help others, citing studies which showed that crowding usually brought out the worst in people.

Disappointment

Singapore's position came as a disappointment to Tommy Koh, a professor and Singapore's ambassador-at-large.

He offered three reasons for the poor ranking.

"We are shy about approaching strangers," Koh said. "Second, we prefer to mind our own business. Third, we are not warm and spontaneous, but tend to be restrained and correct in our behavior."

But the ranking was no surprise to Noel Hon, 56, chair of the Singapore Kindness Movement and chief executive officer of NEC Solutions Asia Pacific.

"While Singaporeans are fantastic when it comes to public appeals for help like the Courage Fund, we do lag behind other countries when it comes to these small, random acts of kindness," Hon said.

But both men agreed that others should not write Singapore off as an unkind and unfriendly place.

"Singaporeans are, in fact, a kind and very honest people. It is our culture which restrains many of us from going to the help of strangers," Koh said.

Role of environment

In his article, Levine said various studies had shown that the tendency to help others was more dependent on the local environment that on the nature of the people in the locality.

According to him, investigators have found that small changes in a situation can dramatically induce kindness to strangers—"above and beyond the personalities or moral beliefs of the people involved."

"Experiments have shown, for example, that reversing the anonymity and diffusion of responsibility that characterize life in some cities—by increasing personal accountability or simply by getting people to address one another by name—boosts helping," Levine said.

He added that "the location where one was raised has less to do with helping (others) than the place one currently lives (in)."

In other words, he said, residents of Rio de Janiero and New York are both more likely to offer help in Ipanema than in Manhattan. The Straits Times/Asia News Network

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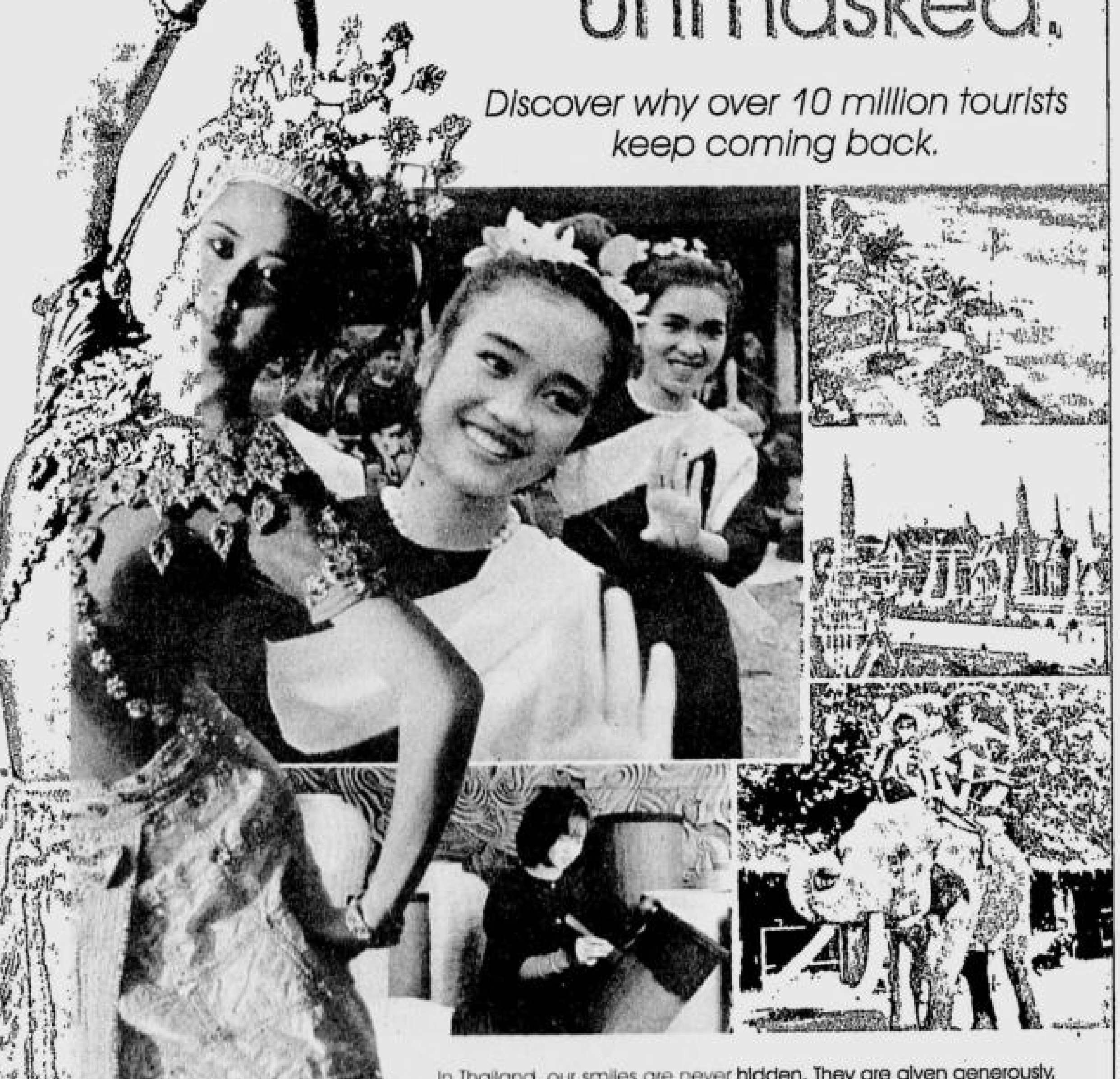

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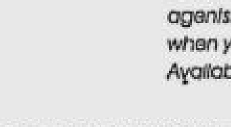

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Surprise, disbelief

Mayor, cop chief nix drug hot spots report

By Amy Remo, Margaux Ortiz and Edson Tandoc Jr.

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte yesterday flatly described as "inaccurate" the National Capital Region Police Office report identifying 15 drug "hot spots" in the city.

Belmonte said he was startled at the NCRPO assessment because it directly contradicted the reports he had been receiving in his office.

Belmonte claimed that the intensified campaign against illegal drugs had actually taken its toll on pushers and users in Quezon City.

In his report, NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said that the Quezon City areas where a high number of residents use and sell illegal drugs include Edsa, Quezon Avenue, Batasan Hills, Cubao and Novaliches.

But Belmonte said that this is not so. He said that in the past two weeks alone, Central Police District lawmen had conducted 156 drug operations, which led to the arrest of more than 50 suspected pushers.

Supt. James Bucayu, head of the CPD operations division, said that with the progress of their drug operations, they expect the number of drug users and pushers to greatly decrease.

Bucayu said that in the amended RA 9165, or the Dangerous Drugs Act, anyone caught buying, selling or carrying illegal drugs of any quantity would be immediately detained and charged without bail.

All drug pushers who would be caught would likely stay detained, disabling them from selling, he said. With less sources of drugs, users would likely decrease as well.

In Parañaque, city police chief Roland Estilles also expressed surprise at the NCRPO's report on Baclaran district.

"Baclaran is a crime-prone area, but not a drug hot spot," Chief Supt. Estilles said yesterday.

Estilles said that the Parañaque police had recorded more drug-related arrests in Barangay San Dionisio than in Baclaran district.

Although he disagreed with the NCRPO assessment, Estilles said that he would still "comply with the directive to cleanse Baclaran and get rid of drug offenders."

In Manila, Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. yesterday criticized the move of Alfredo Lim, newly appointed presidential adviser on illegal drugs, to revive the campaign to spray-paint the houses of suspected drug pushers.

The mayor said that the city's drug problem would not be solved by merely humiliating suspected drug pushers and spray-painting their houses with embarrassing inscriptions.

The mayor said that there were more effective solutions to the drug problem now facing the metropolis.

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

Some got wet, some got mad

NOTHING can dampen the celebration of the feast of St. John the Baptist in the town of San Juan in Metro Manila. Not even the howls of protests of pedestrian and commuters who might have forgotten that yesterday in San Juan, no one would be spared from a dousing of water.

The tradition, residents said, has been part of the yearly celebration for as long as they could remember. Unfortunately, not everybody took kindly to the ritual, especially commuters who were on their way to work on board public transportation.

Bare-chested male youths doused young girls with water, which turned their tops into transparent films of clothing that traced the curves of their bodies.

But older ladies were less tolerant. Some hurled stones at their "attackers," or shouted curses at them.

If water flowed freely during the day, amber liquid poured non-stop down the parched throats of most men in almost street corner in town.

Just another day in San Juan.

Katipunan road plan gets big 'No'

By Leila Salaverria

TRAFFIC experts from a non-government organization have added their voices to those opposing the Metro Manila Development Authority's plan to remove the service islands on Katipunan Road.

Rene Santiago, president of the Transportation Science Society of the Philippines (TSSP), warned that removing the service islands on Katipunan would be "counter-productive" and "dangerous."

In a position paper, the group said the removal of the service islands to increase road space would do nothing for the traffic. It added that only the southbound flow would be affected because the center islands would not be removed.

The group said that Katipunan Avenue at one end has only three lanes, which widens to include a fourth lane before it tapers back into three lanes at the other end of the road.

The group added that the extra lane would be practically useless.

The TSSP also warned that removing the service islands would cause a rise in vehicular accidents.

According to the group, the service islands separate the "through" (fast-moving) traffic from the "local" (slow-moving) traffic.

Also, it pointed out that the islands separate the area in front of establishments along Katipunan from the fast-moving traffic.

"Removing the traffic islands will therefore mix through and local traffic—an invitation to vehicular accidents," the TSSP said.

The TSSP said that the trees need not be removed in the name of progress.

LRTA execs sued for overpricing

By Abigail Ho

A TOP official of the consultancy firm for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 2 project yesterday filed a case against LRT Authority (LRTA) officials for allegedly taking part in anomalies that cost the government more than P218 million in additional expenses.

In a seven-page complaint filed with the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday, Metro Manila Light Rail Transit Consultants (MMLRTC) deputy project manager Roberto Gualberto said certain approvals given by top officials of the LRTA and the MMLRTC led to the acquisition of overpriced equipment and the contracting of expensive services.

But in a statement sent yesterday to the INQUIRER, LRTA administrator Teddy Cruz Jr. denied the allegations, saying they would answer the charges at a proper forum.

Cited as respondents in the case were Cruz, LRT Line 2 project manager Enrico Garcia, LRT Line 2 assistant project manager Elmer Surbano, MMLRTC project manager Masaharo Takano, and Sumitomo Corp. project manager Makato Awakihara.

Gualberto said in his complaint that the LRTA had awarded its management information system (MIS) contract to a bidder with a bloated quotation and had accepted bids from three other companies that were all related to one another.

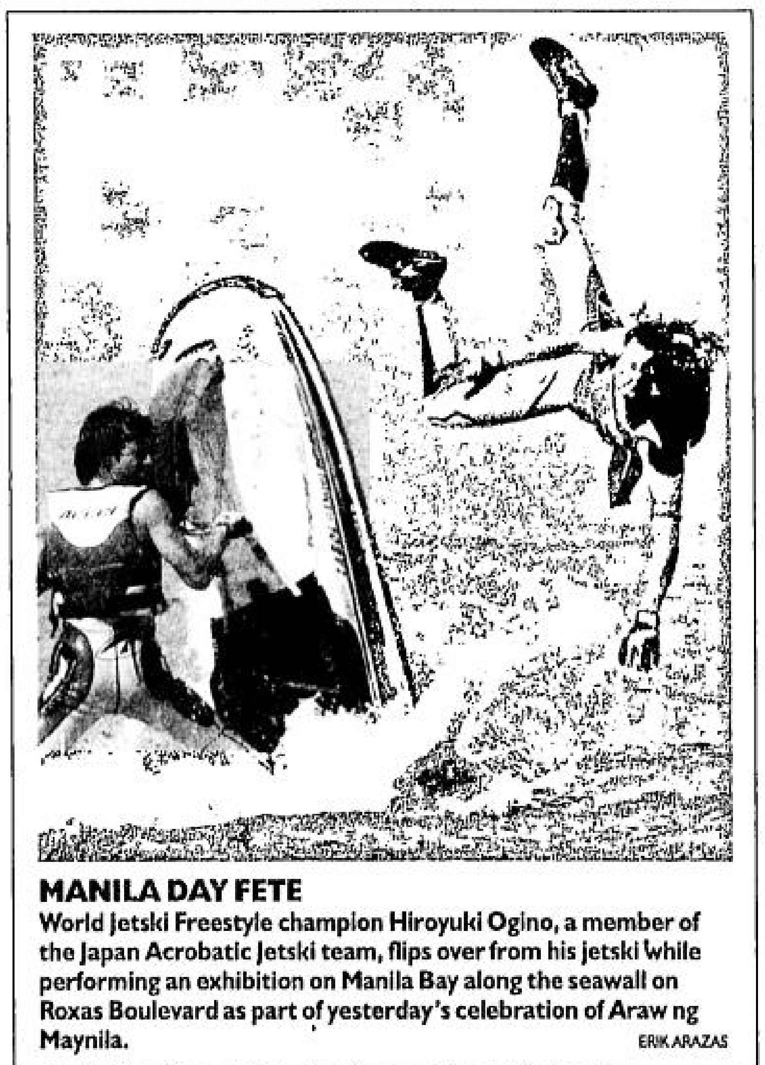
But Cruz said in a telephone interview yesterday that the LRTA had nothing to do with the selection of the winning bidder for the MIS contract.

Cruz added that it was the consultants' responsibility to go over the recommendations of the contractor.

Gualberto also said in his complaint that the government had spent P175 million on unnecessary and overpriced grinding machines for the tracks of the recently constructed LRT Line 2 when the equipment was not needed at this time.

But Cruz said earlier it was necessary to buy a new grinding machine since the old one was no longer effective.

Cruz said he was confident that his name would be cleared.



MANILA DAY FETE
World Jetski Freestyle champion Hiroyuki Ogino, a member of the Japan Acrobatic Jetski team, flips over from his jetski while performing an exhibition on Manila Bay along the seawall on Roxas Boulevard as part of yesterday's celebration of Araw ng Maynila. ERIK ARAZAS

Chinoy trader abducted

TWO ARMED men kidnapped a Filipino-Chinese businessman in front of his hardware store in Antipolo City on Monday night.

Rizal police director Senior Supt. Carlito Dimaano identified the victim as Franklin Ongstico, 41, of Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal and owner of MVRC Construction Supply.

Police said the victim went to his store around 9 p.m. to check his workers unloading gravel and sand from a delivery truck.

When Ongstico was about to leave, the two suspects approached the victim and forcibly dragged him inside a galvanized van without plate number.

Dimaano said the suspects fled toward Angono town.

He said relatives of the victim have yet to receive a call from the kidnappers.

All police stations were told to set up checkpoints in Rizal province and nearby towns. *Marlon Ramos, Southern Luzon Bureau*

Toxic fumes kill worker

By Alcuin Papa

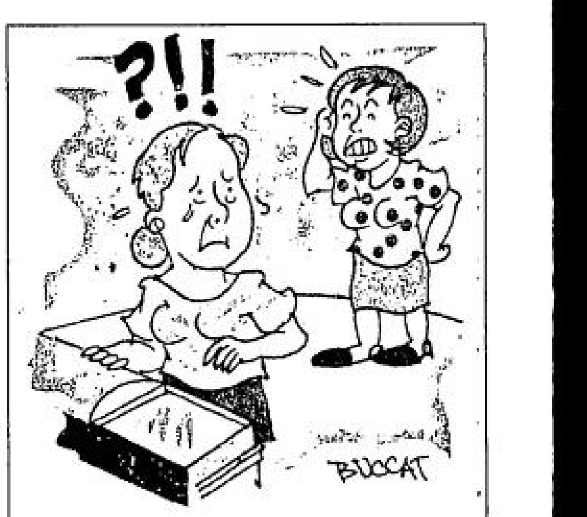
NOXIOUS fumes from a barge proved too much for the workers of a flour mill in Quezon City yesterday, killing one of them.

Four other workers were rushed to a hospital.

The fatality was identified as Allan Jaingga, 29, a stay-in worker of the Delta Millary Corp. located at 102-104 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Libis, Quezon City.

Police said one of the workers found his colleagues lying unconscious inside a barge of the flour mill around 8:30 a.m. He immediately called for help.

Police said Jaingga died after inhaling what could be ammonium sulfate. He and the four others had complained of chest pains and difficulty in breathing.



Woman turns body-snatcher in Paco wake

TWO WOMEN, fighting over the corpse of the man they both married, on Monday created a scene when one of the women literally snatched the body along with the coffin from a wake in Paco, Manila.

Police said the woman, whose name was not immediately known, was accompanied by 20 armed military men in full battle gear, when she arrived at the wake on Cristobal Street, Madrigal Compound, Paco at around 9 p.m.

She then introduced herself as the wife of the dead man, Sgt. Julian Estrada, a member of the Philippine Marines, said SPO2 Butch Umpa.

Patricia Estrada, allegedly the real wife of the dead soldier, was shocked to hear who the woman was. Patricia told police that she was not aware that her husband was married to another woman in their 24 years together.

A literal tug-of-war ensued: the Marines forcibly took the casket while Patricia tearfully held it back, Umpa said. But "the other woman" succeeded in getting the coffin because of the sheer strength and number of the Marines.

"We cannot file kidnapping charges against the woman who took the body because the 'victim' was already dead," Umpa said.

He said that they do not have any information on the whereabouts of the woman or the corpse. *Margaux Ortiz*

Abu 'arms buyer' arrested

By TJ Burgonio

"HE'S A prize catch."

Military officials thus described the Abu Sayyaf's alleged arms procurement officer who was captured on Monday morning.

Operatives from the military and the police nabbed Samir Hakim, a.k.a. Husim Samil, at around 10 a.m. in the vicinity of Intramuros, Manila, hours before President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the area.

Hakim, 43, had a P150,000 prize on his head.

AFP chief Gen. Narciso Abaya said Hakim had taken part in three Abu Sayyaf kidnap operations—of 21 mostly European tourists from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in May 2001; nurse Ediborah Yap in Lamitan, Basilan in June 2001; and Claret School pupils and teachers in Sumisip, Basilan, in March 2000.

"He's been with the Abu Sayyaf from the start," Abaya said, referring to the dark, kinky-haired Hakim who was briefly presented to the media yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo.

At the time of his capture, the military said, Hakim was employed as a guard by the Octagon Security Agency and assigned to the Ablaza pawnshop in Divisoria.

Abaya suspected that Hakim's job had helped in the purchase of firearms from the black market, and in shipping these to the bandit group in Mindanao.

"They come here to procure firearms every time they suffered losses in Mindanao," Abaya said. He disclosed that Hakim had companions in the metropolis, but said this should not be cause "for serious concern."

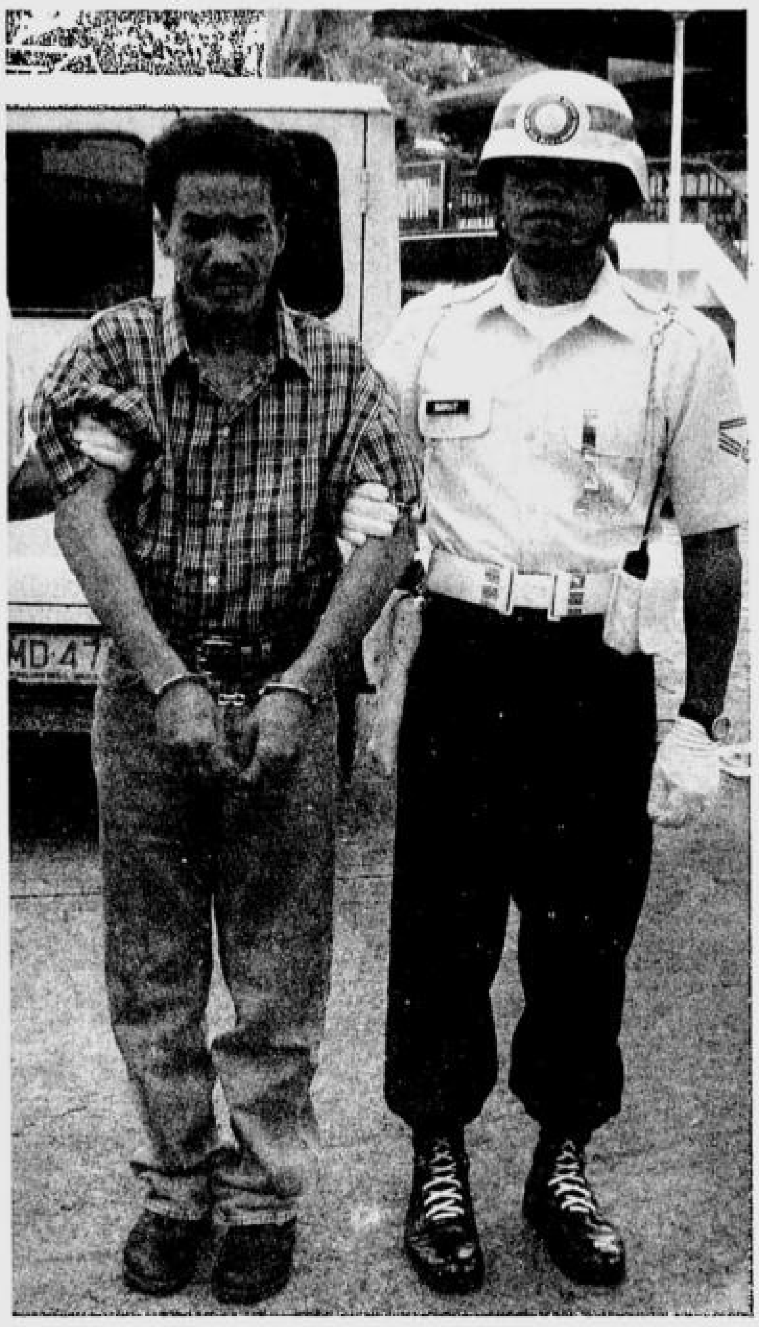
Also, he said, some bandits traveled from Mindanao to Manila between kidnapping sprees, to escape military operations. "When the heat is on (over there), they come here."

Hakim, who had been placed on surveillance for sometime, was "going somewhere" when he was arrested, according to Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., deputy chief of staff for intelligence.

Officials believed Hakim had used an alias and faked his birth and residence certificates to gain employment, but could not say how long the suspect had been working as a security guard.

The military estimated the present strength of the Abu Sayyaf at 200.

The United States government, which had three nationals among those seized from Dos Palmas, earlier offered a total of $5 million for the capture of gang leader Khadaffy Janjalani and other top leaders.



ALLEGED Abu Sayyaf procurement officer Samir Hakim is escorted by a military policeman on his way to a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo. The Armed Forces presented Samir yesterday to media after he was arrested in Intramuros, Manila.

MMDA takes aim at private vehicles

Camera-wielding enforcers deployed

By Leila B. Salaverria

MOTORISTS beware: Big brother is watching you.

The Metro Manila Development Authority will soon deploy more camera-carrying traffic enforcers who will take pictures of traffic rule violators as part of the agency's no-contact apprehension policy.

The MMDA currently has 10 handheld digital cameras in use by its enforcers and it will buy 50 more, Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios has said.

Vergel de Dios said they were buying more cameras because the MMDA would already be including private vehicles in their hunt for traffic violators.

The MMDA started deploying photographers early this year to test the no-contact traffic enforcement scheme.

Initially, taking pictures was limited to buses and other public utility vehicles whose drivers violated traffic rules.

The photographs were mailed to bus operators along with a traffic violation receipt and a summons asking them to pay the corresponding fine.

As this method is expanded to include private cars, vehicle owners will be identified with the help of the Land Transportation Office and the summons sent to the address listed in the vehicle's registration record.

Those receiving the summons must pay the fine nine days after receiving the photograph of their violation.

If they ignore it, a general alarm will be sent out on their vehicle, which means any law enforcement group can apprehend the vehicle and bring it to the MMDA's impounding station.

The owner will only be able to retrieve the vehicle once he pays the fine and the impounding fee.

Three weeks ago, the enforcers began snapping the pictures of private vehicles with erring drivers.

Vergel de Dios said most of the private vehicles caught on camera disregarded the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program or the number coding scheme.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando earlier said the use of cameras in traffic enforcement was not only meant to discipline drivers in Metro Manila but prevent unscrupulous enforcers from victimizing motorists.

He explained that the use of cameras would considerably lessen mulcting and bribery because there would be totally no interaction between the enforcer and a driver.

Vergel de Dios said that the MMDA would not reveal the areas where the enforcers with cameras would be deployed.

He said they wanted drivers to be conscious at all times that someone would take their picture if they violated the law.

Each of the 50 new digital cameras will cost P6,000 to P7,000, which are much cheaper than the P30,000 price tag for each of the 10 cameras earlier bought.

The first batch cameras, however, are capable of taking moving and still pictures and have a zoom function. On the other hand, the second batch of digital cameras will only be capable of taking still pictures, said the traffic director.

Deadly ride-and-fall

MARLON Abucatan boarded a tricycle on his way home. He never made it after he fell from the vehicle.

The police said Abucatan, of Sitio Sarimanok, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo, just came from drinking with friends when he took the tricycle of Rey Antones at around 2 a.m.

Abucatan reportedly sat at the back of the motorcycle instead of inside its cab.

The tricycle was traveling along C. Lawis Extension in Sitio Tagbak, Barangay San Isidro when Abucatan fell head first onto the pavement.

He died at the Antipolo Community Hospital. *IPI*

Law against smoking is 'old news'

By Leila B. Salaverria

BEFORE President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the anti-smoking law, the lungs— and pockets— of many smokers in Makati City have been aching because of the strict Makati ordinance that virtually bans lighting up in all public places in the city.

A total of 127 smokers have been apprehended since last April for violating City Ordinance 2002-090, which was passed in March.

Violators are meted out P1,000 to P3,000 in fines.

Most of those apprehended were caught smoking in Makati's entertainment establishments like bars and clubs, and inside public utility vehicles.

In a statement to the INQUIRER yesterday, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay urged non-smokers to report violators of the smoking ban to the Makati Health Department (870-1609, 870-1610) or to the Makati Helplines (896-8435, 896-3441, 896-3443 or 896-9068).

They may also send an e-mail to om@makati.gov.ph, according to the statement.

It said there has been an increased compliance with the ordinance, and that several owners of bars, restaurants and malls have banned smoking in their establishments.

MANILA DAY

Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza speaks to guests, residents and city employees during rites marking the 432nd founding anniversary of the city held at the Rajah Sulayman Park. ERIK ARAZAS

Cop in hot water over suspect's death

By Tarra Quismundo

HE NEVER thought that responding to a call of duty would get him in trouble but this is one fact that PO2 Amando Villanueva has learned recently.

Villanueva, of the Malabon Drug Enforcement Unit, was on surveillance for suspected drug users and pushers in Catmon, Malabon, last Sunday, when he was asked by barangay officials to respond to an alleged lover's quarrel at around 5 p.m.

A woman reportedly had complained that her live-in partner was threatening to kill her.

Accompanied by two barangay officials, Villanueva went to the complainant's house at Sitio 6, Catmon, to arrest the suspect, Manny Fernandez, 30.

However, the police said, Fernandez allegedly resisted arrest and fired a homemade gun at Villanueva and the barangay officials.

Villanueva responded with a single shot, hitting Fernandez in his head, killing him instantly.

The family of Fernandez is now suing Villanueva for homicide.

The police, however, are confident that Villanueva would be acquitted of the charge.

Fatima parents appeal

PARENTS and students of Fatima University in Valenzuela City are appealing to authorities to intensify security in the area as they expressed fear of kidnap-for-ransom syndicates reportedly operating in the northern part of Metro Manila.

The students said they want more policemen deployed in the vicinity of the school, which is located along McArthur Highway.

A school official, who requested anonimity, confirmed that majority of the students at the university are foreigners, mostly Chinese, and possible targets of criminal groups.

The students said the recent kidnapping of traders Edwin Navarro and Aurora Yu in Caloocan City showed that kidnapping groups may again be operating in the area and that they could be next. *Tina Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Kidnappers pose as cops

FOUR men posing as policemen abducted a businessman in Quiapo last Sunday. Ballemen Abubakar, 32, a native of Marawi and a resident of Carlos Palanca Street in Quiapo, was walking towards the Muslim Barter Trade Center at 3 p.m. when four men blocked his way, police said. His aunt, Gilda Hadj Uussoff, said the men dragged him into a blue Tamaraw FX before speeding off in the direction of Quezon City. The victim's wife, Noryak, later received a call from a man asking for P500,000 for the release of her husband. *Margaux Ortiz*

Tip leads to arrest of 7

SEVEN persons, including a housewife, were arrested in Valenzuela City after they were caught sniffing shabu early yesterday morning. City police chief Supt. Jose Marcelo said Susana Francisco, 35; Domingo, 37; Romulo, 28, and Rosendo Capistrano, 24; Jun Dimetion, 20, and Ryan Ulysses Manalili, 21; and Lito Regatio, 24, were collared after a concerned citizen reported their activities inside the house of the Capistranos. *Tina Santos*

Red light for 'Red Circle'

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez has ordered the Red Circle Towing Services to stop its operations in Parañaque City for failing to pay more than P2 million administrative fees. Marquez added in a statement that he had been receiving complaints from motorists about alleged abuses of Red Circle employees and their carelessness of in handling towed vehicles. The towing agency also had continued operating in spite of its contract expiring on Dec. 31, 2001. City chief information Officer Mar Jimenez warned motorists against the operation of the towing agency. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

New Alige officers

CHURCH worker Felisa Matubang has been elected new president of Samahang Alige, a non-governmental organization in Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong City. Other officers of the organization are vice-president Danilo Quizon, secretary Elaynie Salamanca, and treasurer Noli Remetilla. The board is composed of Sancho Geronimo, Ino dela Cruz, Cenon Wigan, Dra. Lucila Bargo, Bayani Diaz and Abet Redaza. The two-year-old organization has been responsible for improvements in the barangay, including the people's park by the Pasig River.

2 men die in duel

TWO elderly neighbors died in a duel in Quezon City the other day. Albert Avila, 53, a retired employee, and Roberto Manlangit, 67, both of 557 Dona Antonio Extension, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, were having a drinking session at about 4:30 p.m. when they had an argument which led to them each pulling out a knife and engaging in a duel. Both of them ended up wounded and dead. *Alcuin Papa*

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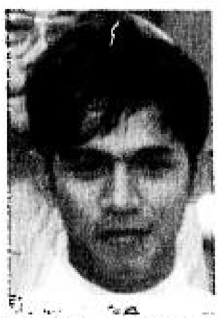
- **Hewitt falls** /A26
- **RP chessers share lead** /A26

- **World champ Brazil booted out by Turkey** /A26



- **Raquel keys Hazmoore victory in Gran Copa** /A27

Top athletes victims of PSC-POC turf war

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IN THE ongoing feud between the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, it is the national athletes who end up as collateral damage.

POC vice president Steve Hontiveros made this assessment yesterday as he stressed that athletes are the ones who will eventually suffer in the ongoing spat between the two sports bodies over several issues regarding the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

"They will certainly be affected by all these, no matter how hard we protect them, because it will leave an impression that sports is in deep trouble," said Hontiveros.

The PSC and the POC have been fighting over the gold medal projection, the size of delegation, criteria to be used, marketing paraphernalia, sponsorship money and, lately, the POC's alleged discrimination of PSC representatives during screening committee meetings.

PSC chair Eric Buhain Monday said he has created a separate Task Force that will go straight to the national sports association instead of passing through the POC, which he claimed "has kept the PSC in the dark."

The plan, according to Buhain, is for the PSC to have an idea of the country's chances in the SEAG as well as provide a "safety net" in case the contingent bombs out in the Games. After all, said the PSC chair, the POC has snubbed the PSC representatives during their deliberations.

Hontiveros has since denied the claim, saying PSC officials themselves told the POC people to finish the SEA Games deliberations without them.

Hontiveros said PSC director for NSA affairs Tats Suzara informed him that the PSC won't send representatives anymore and that they will just meet with their POC counterparts after the screening meetings are finished.

This ran contrary to the PSC claim that the POC "snubbed" them during deliberations.

But Suzara said the reason the PSC decided not to send representatives to the monthly meetings is that the POC "obviously doesn't want our presence there."

Suzara claimed that, in one meeting two months ago, he was informed through a text message that it was postponed, only to learn later that the deliberation pushed through that day.

Hontiveros countered that he personally called up Suzara to say the meeting was pushing through after all.

PSC Task Force useless—Dayrit

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit last night lashed back at the Philippine Sports Commission for creating a separate Southeast Asian Games Task Force.

He said the PSC move is "nonsense and useless."

Dayrit said that while the PSC has the money, the list of athletes its task force will create is "useless" because it is the POC—not the PSC—that is recognized by the international sporting federations that hold such events as the Southeast Asian Games, the Asian Games and the Olympics.

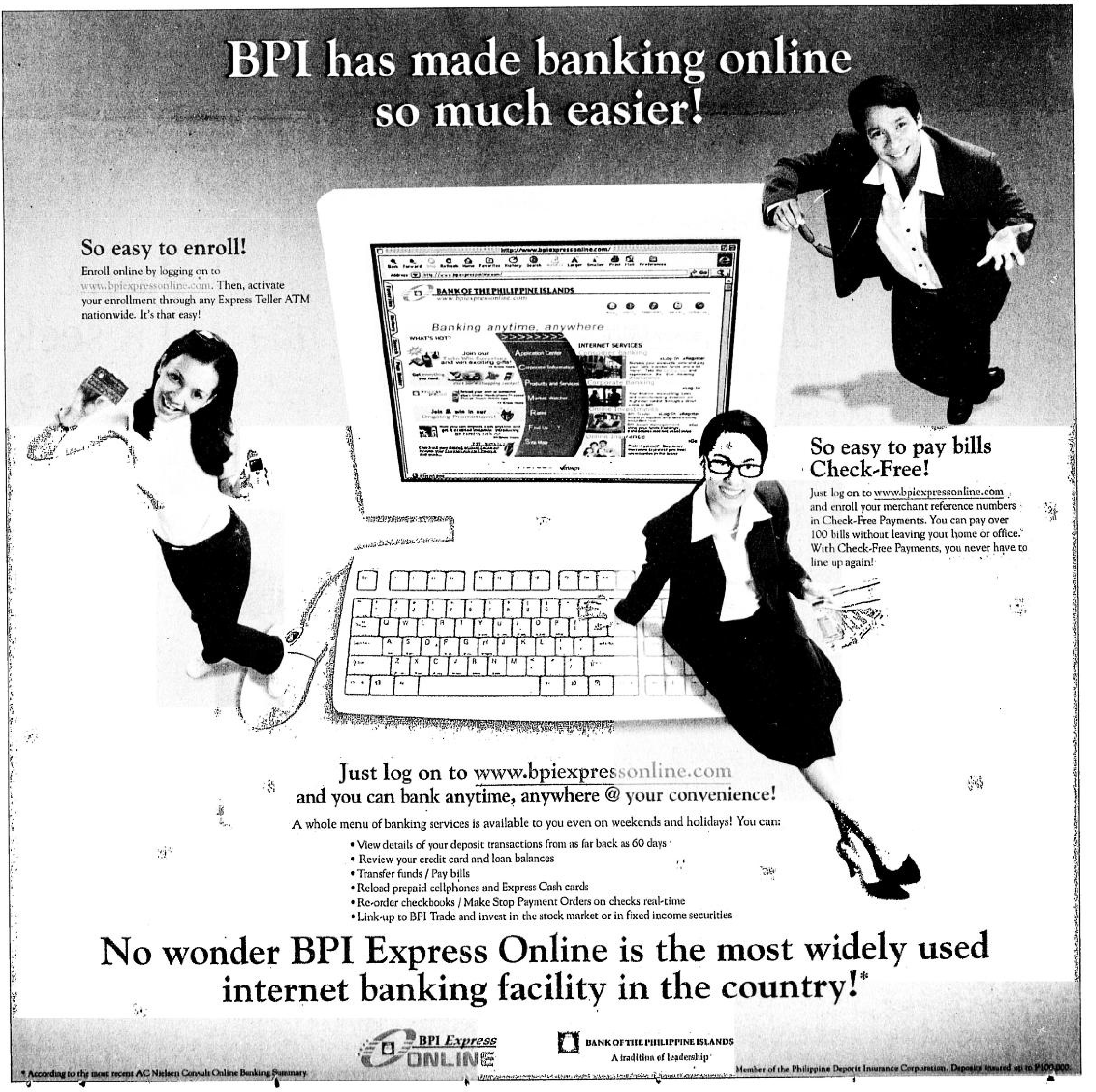
"That is nonsense. This is the first time two committees are formed for an international competition," a fuming Dayrit said, reacting to PSC chair Eric Buhain's statement that he would use the POC-approved roster as a mere guide in the PSC's own selection process.

Dayrit also criticized Buhain for sending only his consultants during the deliberations of the POC screening committee.

"It degrades the POC body because nobody can give us a commitment on behalf of the chairman," he said.

During previous PSC administrations, he noted, the agency sent commissioners to the POC task force meetings.

Asked what the POC will do if the PSC insists on financing the participation only of athletes it deems worthy of being sent to the SEA Games, Dayrit said the POC will have to raise funds to bankroll the other athletes' stint.



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Klitschko clicked

(Al Mendoza's column was supposed to come out yesterday, but the Sports desk misplaced it in the editorial data files. We apologize to Mr. Mendoza's readers. – Ed)

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF you saw the fight, I'm sure Vitali Klitschko impressed you. Not very much, maybe, but still you must admit that the Ukrainian fought a brave, if not a memorable, fight.

He was not Drago, the savage fighter in the film Rocky IV. But he was Dagohoy, our revolutionary hero whose bravery struck fear in the hearts of the Spanish conquistadores.

In my book, Klitschko, despite failing to unseat heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis on Sunday, passed the test with flying colors.

To start with, he was never knocked down in the fight, preserving a record that has yet to include a KO in his 32-2 mark, with 31 knockouts.

When the fight was stopped even before the bell rang for the start of the 7th, Klitschko screamed, "No! No! No!"

He wanted to fight more, but the ring physician decided enough is enough. No more punishment. The doctor told the referee to stop the fight to prevent Lewis from inflicting more damage to Klitschko's gaping wound beneath the left eyebrow. Lewis opened the cut with a slashing right starting the third round.

"Did you agree with the doctor?" asked Ibok Bernardino. "I saw you on TV covering the fight together with Ed Picson and Hermie Rivera."

Ah, Ibok, the last of the great PBA commissioners. He was with his family spending quality time when he called me up on his cell phone.

"I think the doctor did the right thing," I told him. "Fight doctors are under strict orders to recommend the stopping of a fight only when they see that an injured boxer might suffer more damage if he were allowed to continue fighting."

The doctor, after examining Klitschko's injury at the end of the 6th round, told referee Lou Morella to stop the fight. Under boxing rules, only a referee can stop a fight.

Despite Klitschko's screaming protest, Morella's decision stood: A TKO win for Lewis after six rounds, improving his record to 41-2-1.

But it was not the sorriest of endings for Klitschko, the 31-year-old challenger from Kiev, Ukraine, now based in California.

Before the fight stoppage, the 6-foot-8 Klitschko, the son of a helicopter pilot, had engaged the 6-foot-5 Lewis to an almost brutal toe-to-toe combat. Giving away almost 10 pounds to the 256-pound Lewis, Klitschko returned the champion's best shots with his own repertoire of shots. Like Custer of the West, he never backed down even when he was getting jarred by a rain of Lewis punches to the face.

"Looks like my countryman (Lewis) is going to lose this one," said Briton Rob Dix, a businessman based in Pangasinan in a text message he sent me after Round 2.

He was right.

Klitschko dominated Lewis in the first two rounds to the surprise of a Los Angeles crowd half-expecting such a stunning performance from a guy described as having a fighting style "as though he is walking in the moon."

In the second round, he caught Lewis with a right, wobbling the knees of the 37-year-old champion. But Klitschko, with 31 KO wins in his 32 victories, failed to come up with a follow up. There lies Klitschko's weakness; he does not have the experience of Lewis. Given that situation, a more seasoned fighter like, say, Oscar De La Hoya or Bernard Hopkins, would have delivered the coup de grace.

None of that came.

Hermie Rivera was right: Klitschko's chance would only come in the early rounds. Klitschko had it in Round 2. Unfortunately, he lacked the experience to wrap it up. He got ripped in Round 3 by that booming right to the eye, signaling that the end might be near.

But Klitschko didn't go so easily.

Despite missing his appointment with destiny, he still brought the fight to Lewis almost without let-up after absorbing that big blast in the eye. He was so pumped up actually, unmindful of the champion's deadly fists that had previously felled 31 foes. Several times, he got tagged real hard by Lewis' uppercuts; the body shots he absorbed dug like knives at the ribs and kidney.

But through it all, Klitschko would emerge triumphant.

The feared KO, Klitschko parried with gusto.

Klitschko clicked!

Klitschko's face, because of blood continuously streaming down from the wound, became almost a gory mask of one emerging from a terrorist bomb attack.

But Klitschko, a linguist with a Ph.D. in sports medicine, has nothing to be ashamed of. He fought well. He got to the throne almost. And, if it hadn't been for that ugly cut, who knows what might have happened?

So, to those who went with me and lost some beer money like Tom "Kaaro" Garcia of Cagayan de Oro, fret no more. Be proud of what you've done. Losers we maybe, but our manok did not disappoint; he was to me almost a winner already. As Peter Lee, the chef of all chefs, said in a text message to me just minutes after the fight: "Lewis was just lucky."

For someone so famous like Peter Lee to say that, you had better believe it.

The guy is no joke.

ASIAN ZONAL

Dableo, Paragua share lead

By Roy Luarca

NATIONAL Master Ronald Dableo and GM-candidate Mark Paragua share the same room at the First Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City. Now, they also share the lead in the Asian 3.2a Zonal chess championships.

Dableo, the reigning Philippine Open champion, stunned top seeded Singaporean GM Wu Shao Bin in the fourth round Monday night to catch up with Paragua at 3.5 points.

Paragua, who won his first three games, split the point with GM Joey Antonio in just 15 moves of a Sicilian Duel as the Filipino bets continued to tow the 38-man field vying for two slots in the 2004 World Men's Championships.

The 19-year-old Paragua and Dableo, the 1997 World Open under-2400 category champion, will clash in the fifth round.

With 3 points, Antonio was lodged at 3rd to 6th place with IM Pham Minh Hoang of Vietnam, FM Sadikin Irwanto of Indonesia and unrated Le Quang Liem of Vietnam.

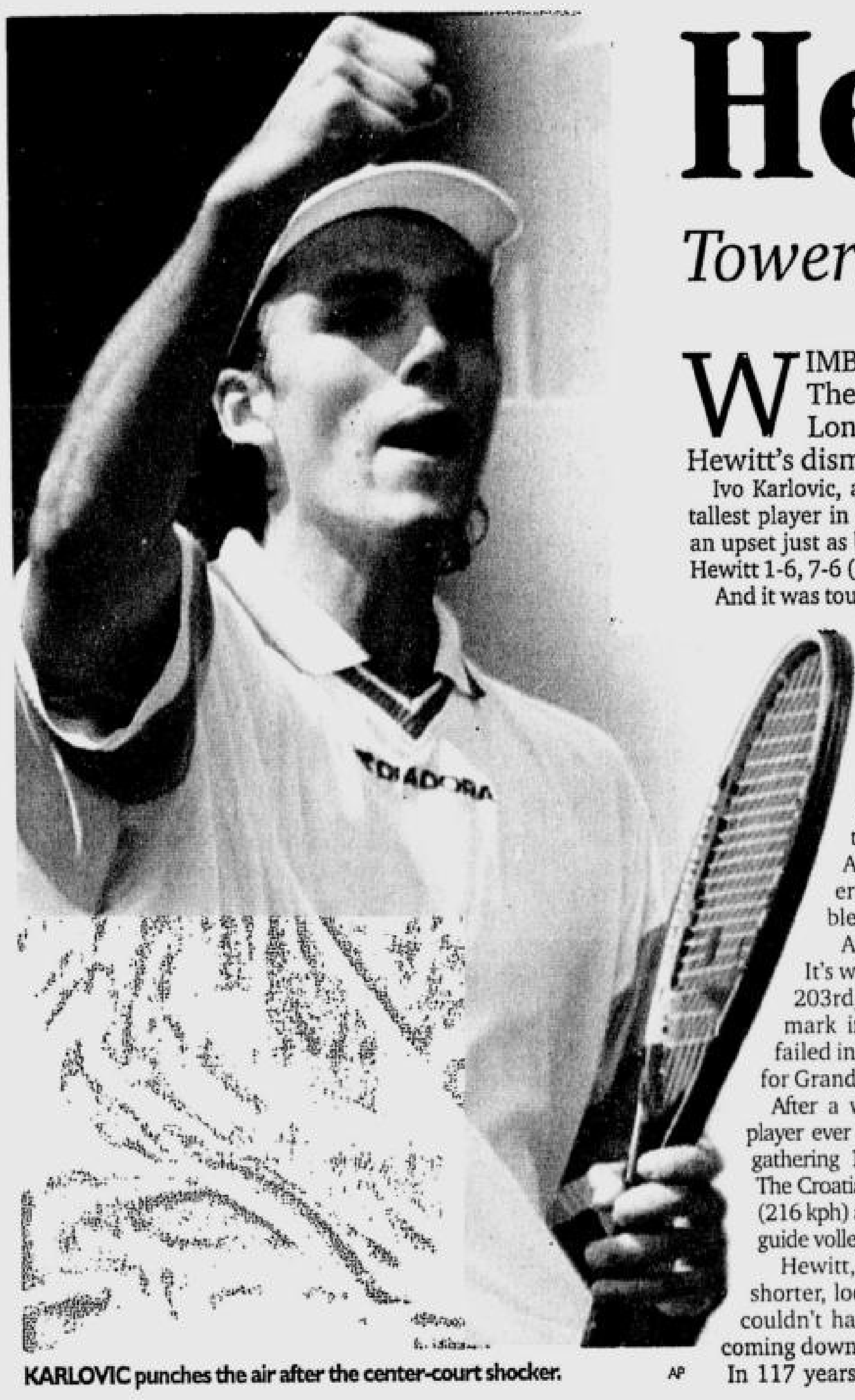
GM Bong Villamayor bounced back from his third round loss to Le by beating Vietnamese Ngo Ngoc Quang in 34 moves of a Slav Defense. He was level with GM Eugene Torre on 2.5 points.

Torre, Asia's first grandmaster, settled for a draw with Indonesian IM Saklor Sitanggang to stay in contention for the title in the nine-round Swiss System event.

"He (Shao Bin) made an unsound sacrifice," said Dableo, seeded 18th with his Elo of 2305, referring to the China-born Shao's rook for a bishop exchange in the 24th move that paved the way for the Filipino's victory in 38 moves of a King's Indian Attack.

"Quality up ako *at maganda ang depensa at atake*," said Dableo.

In the distaff side, WIM Arianne Caoili remained at 2 points following a 61-move loss to Bui Kim Le of Vietnam. WIM Bathuyag Mongontuul of Mongolia is ahead with a perfect 4 points, followed by top seed WIM Nguyen Thi Thanh An of Vietnam at 3.5.



KARLOVIC punches the air after the center-court shocker. AP

Hewitt falls

Towering Croat makes history

WIMBLEDON, England—There's a new Tower of London, much to Lleyton Hewitt's dismay.

Ivo Karlovic, at 6-foot-10 (2.08 meters) the tallest player in Wimbledon history, pulled off an upset just as big by beating 2002 champion Hewitt 1-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-4.

And it was tough to catch a glimpse of Hewitt when he left Center Court. His opponent, a step behind, blocked the view.

Hewitt's stunning exit Monday against the 24-year-old Croat qualifier making his Grand Slam debut made him the only defending champion to lose in the first round at the All England Club in the Open era—and the second since Wimbledon began in 1877.

And it's not just that Hewitt lost. It's who he lost to. Karlovic is ranked 203rd, entered with a 2-4 career mark in tour-level tournaments, and failed in 10 previous attempts to qualify for Grand Slams.

After a wobbly start, Wimbledon's tallest player ever used each inch to his advantage, gathering 18 aces plus 41 service winners. The Croatian pounded serves up to 135 mph (216 kph) and unfurled his lanky right arm to guide volleys with surprising delicacy.

Hewitt, who's a foot (30.5 centimeters) shorter, looked like a baseball batter who couldn't handle Randy Johnson's fastballs coming down at him.

In 117 years of competition at Wimbledon, only two defending men's champions have lost in the first round. The other was Manuel Santana, beaten by Charlie Pasarell in 1967.

KARLOVIC towers over Hewitt (right) as they shake hands after their match. AP

Andy Roddick meets Britain's Greg Rusedski Wednesday in a second-round rematch. Rusedski beat Roddick in the third round last year.

Another second-round pairing pits three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten against Todd Martin.

In women's play, No. 2 Kim Clijsters defeated Rossana Neffa-de los Rios 6-0, 6-0.

Two-time champion Venus Williams overcame 10 double faults to sweep qualifier Stanislava Hrozenska 6-2, 6-2 in 50 minutes.

Also advancing were No. 5 Lindsay Davenport, No. 7 Chanda Rubin and No. 9 Daniela Hantuchova.

AP

PBA pullout final; Philsports claims it needs backdoor ads

By June Navarro

THE BID for a compromise over the problem caused by backdoor advertising failed as the PBA yesterday confirmed its transfer to the Cuneta Astrodome starting the next conference.

The management of the Philsports Arena and Araneta Coliseum yesterday offered a solution over the sales problem but vowed to keep their respective advertisers intact to sustain the upkeep of both venues.

Philsports administrator Tats Suzara said the advertisements seen on the venue's court flooring and walls help the government generate income for the maintenance of the facility.

Without the advertisers, Suzara said the government would rely solely on rental fee for the venue.

Luke Pasiliao, chief operating offficer of Uniprom Inc., the entertainment unit of the Araneta Group of Companies which owns the Big Dome, echoed the same sentiment and pointed out that turnstiles sales rarely meet the demands of operating the entire coliseum.

Suzara and Pasiliao said they were open to negotiations in order to keep a healthy relationship with the league.

PBA media bureau chief Willie Marcial said the refurbishing of the Astrodome is expected to be completed in three weeks in time for the opening of the Asian Invitationals on July 18.

Alaska, SLR seek win No.2

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola

THE MOMENTUM on their side, Alaska and Sta. Lucia Realty try to score a second victory each against Talk N Text and Coca-Cola, respectively, as the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup semifinals resume today at the Philsports Arena.

The Aces and the Realtors, who both lost their best-of-five series openers, bounced back with a vengeance in Game 2, to reduce the two semifinal encounters into a race-to-two affair.

The Realtors will see the return of chief gunner Kenneth Duremdes, who strained a calf muscle in the quarterfinals against San Miguel Beer two weeks ago.

The 1998 MVP received a clean bill of health from his doctors. But the decision to field him in will come only from Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua.

"I'm almost 70 percent ready but I still feel a slight pain," said Duremdes, one of the leading contenders for the player of the conference award.

The Talk N Text-Alaska face-off in the curtain-raiser at 5 p.m. also offers several subplots, including the match-up in the point-guard position and the Aces' strategy to stop Taulava inside the paint.

June Navarro

Billiards duel: RP vs Europe

THE BEST of the Philippines versus the Best of Europe.

This will be the scenario when ABS-CBN stages the On-Cue! 9-Ball Showdown on July 2-6 at the broadcast network's complex on Mother Ignacia, South Triangle, Quezon City.

Efren "Bata" Reyes, recently named to the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame, will spearhead the Filipinos' bid against the Europeans in the event being supported by Puyat Sports.

He'll be backstopped by 2001 World Pool runner-up Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 1999 Asian Champion Warren Kiamco and 2000 All Japan titlist Antonio "Nikoy" Lining.

Team Europe will be led by four-time World Pool Masters champion Ralp Souquet of Germany and 2003 Nordic titlist Mika Immonen of Finland, the 2001 world pool champion.

Completing the team is 2000 European 9-ball champion Marcus Chamat of Sweden and the Netherlands' Niels Feijen, the 2003 Finland Open and European 14-1 champion.

Peter Musngi, ABS-CBN's assistant vice president for Sports, said the showdown is in recognition of billiards' immense popularity in the country.

Roy Luarca

NET RESULT: Brazilians and Turks figure in a melee just before the end of their crucial match in Lyon, France. The teams' hard-fought 2-2 draw ousted World Cup champion Brazil from the Confederations Cup. AFP

4 more sacked in PBA for drugs

By Blanche S. Rivera

FOUR more people were banned from their respective teams in the Philippine Basketball Association after they tested positive for drug use.

PBA technical director Perry Martinez yesterday said that the four were utility people listed with three teams. He did not identify them.

"They cannot be part of the teams anymore," said Martinez, who was a guest at the Annabel's health forum in Quezon City along with officials from the Department of Health.

Benjamin Reyes, of the National Center for Health Promotions, assured that the DOH followed proper procedure in the drug testing. He said that the DOH test analyses were fool-proof.

Meanwhile, the FedEx management yesterday submitted its appeal to the PBA Board of Governors, asking for a complete reversal of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala's decision on the FedEx-Bong Hawkins contract dispute.

Eala decided to honor the remaining two years of Hawkins' four-year contract worth P400,000 a month.

With a report from June Navarro

Top stables joining pro boxing tilt

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE PHILIPPINE Pro Boxing League (PPBL), a newly-established professional boxing tournament patterned after the NBA play-offs, is expected to take the country's sporting scene by storm.

"The unique attraction of the PPBL is its novel stepladder format similar to the NBA playoffs. You lose, you go home," said boxing promoter Lito Mondejar in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

I-Sports Action owned by Mon Liboro, Mondejar and Jet Manibay conceptualized the PPBL which will be launched on June 28.

"There have been other boxing tournaments before, but the PPBL will get the biggest coverage. It will also have a large number of boxers and prize money," Mondejar, who helps handle world champion Manny Pacquiao, said.

The PPBL will run for four months and will feature 16 of the country's finest flyweights, including Jovan Presbitero, Eugene Gonzales and Alfred Nagal.

The tournament is to be broadcast by Solar Sports for 17 consecutive Thursdays on IBC 13 from 8-9:30 p.m. beginning July 3, with the championship fight to be aired October 23.

The cream of the country's boxing stables–L&M Gym, ALA boxing Gym, Vic Cabalo stable, Contayoso, Jass Taguiling, Polding Correa, Mandaluyong Stable–among others, are set to field entries and will compete for over P500,000 in cash prizes.

RP's Tampus in WBA box-off

MARVIN Tampus of the Philippines will be among top four rated boxers that will figure in a box-off to determine the mandatory challenger to World Boxing Association light flyweight champ Rosendo Alvarez.

Tampus of Cebu, reigning Pan Asia Boxing Association (PABA) champ and ranked fifth in the WBA 108-lbs division, will be paired against third-ranked Pichit Siriwat of Thailand.

Jose Oliver Gomez, WBA ratings committee chair, said the box-off format was decided upon during the WBA executive meeting in Managua, Nicaragua last month.

Gomez said the process is necessary to make way for a mandatory challenger to Alvarez.

The other pair will pit No. 1 Beibis Mendoza against No. 4 Edgar Velasquez, the Fedelatin champ.

"I have already communicated to the WBA our desire to join the box-off," Tampus' manager, Terry Carter, said.

Carter is eyeing an August 8 fight between Tampus and Siriwat in Manila.

Expected to see action in the card is PABA flyweight champ Rolly Lunas, who will defend his crown against Thai boxing hero Deeden Kengkarun.

The power-punching Tampus, who hails from Leyte, parades a 10-1 win-loss record with 7 KOs.

Salven Lagumbay, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

Olympism Awards

THE OLYMPISM awards were given to 14 individuals, organizations and corporations Monday night at the Coconut Palace at the CCP Complex. The awardees were Dr. Jose Raul Canlas for sports science and medicine; Ramon C. Vecina and Alberto P. Garcia (sports photography), Joaquin "Quinito" Henson (sports journalism), Ricardo "Dick" Ildefonso (sports broadcasting, TV), Guillermo "Willie" Hernandez (sports broadcasting, radio) and Gameplan (sports broadcasting, program), Don Jorge B. Vargas and Don Antonio delas Alas (sports leadership, posthumous), BEST Center and Coke Go-for-Goal (sports development), Philippine Indigenous Games and Sports Savers Association Inc. (sports and culture), Nestle Philippines/Milo and San Miguel Corp. (sports support).

Mountain bike festival

RODRIGUEZ, Rizal—Eboy Farr and Nilo Daet topped the expert and intermediate divisions of the downhill event in the inaugural edition of the 1st Montalban Mountain Bike Festival on Sunday in Barangay San Rafael here. Farr survived the challenge of James Sardea in the pro group while Daet beat a host of game bikers in the semi-pro bracket of this two-day competition organized by the Municipality of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) under Mayor Pedro Cuerpo and sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association (Paca). A huge crowd turned up for the races staged at the Grotto in Barangay San Rafael where more than 40 mountain bikers braved the 3-km redesigned course spiked with a killer "rock garden" and a spectacular 10-foot "kamikaze drop."

Chess clinic listing

ENROLLEES for the fourth series of Milo Checkmate Saturday classes will still be accepted until June 28 at the following venues: Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila; Jollibee-Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) Branch and 4/F J & F Divino Bldg., #967 Aurora Blvd., near Anonas St. in Quezon City. Enrollees are advised to proceed to the venue site of their choice at least before the clinic starts or call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Alvarez, Simon named PBL MVPs

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE PBL Press Corps yesterday named Hapee's Richard Alvarez and Peter June Simon as co-MVPs in the recent Sunkist PBL-Unity Cup.

Alvarez, 6-foot-4, gained the nod of sportswriters covering the PBL with his awesome rebounding and defensive skills, while Simon was cited for his explosive offense.

Koy Banal, who coached rookie Viva Mineral Water to the finals, was named best coach during the awarding ceremonies held during the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

"I would like to share this award with Hapee management, coach Junel Baculi, my teammates and the fans. This will inspire me to continue giving my best," said Alvarez, a key member of the Ateneo Blue Eagles and a two-time UAAP MVP.

The high-leaping Simon also expressed his thanks to the press corps and said he hopes the plum will not be his last in the PBL.

"I've been longing to have an MVP award. This is very prestigious," said Simon, a Davaoeño.

Banal was recognized for steering underdog Viva to the finals of the Unity Cup.

Hazmoore pulls off Gran Copa shocker

Absolute Charmer, Kayang Kaya share limelight

By Edwin Villanueva

SHE'S not supposed to last the distance but speedball Hazmoore did just that yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Rated superbly by star jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr., Hazmoore set a brisk pace and reserved enough strength down the stretch to score a shocking wire-to-wire victory in the Division I of the 24th Gran Copa de Manila Stakes races.

At the end of the 1,900-meter contest, Hazmoore found herself a head in front of heavy favorite Golden Ballet and two lengths up on second choice Lyonnais.

"*Napabayaan sa harapan eh yun ang gusto ni* Hazmoore (They allowed her to set the pace and that's what Hazmoore likes)," said Raquel of the six-year-old mare by Hazm out of Hannah Moore.

Hazmoore clocked 2:02.5, clicking off splits of 17-28-26.5-25-26. She won P300,000 for the Sunga Stable.

RAQUEL: Superb ride. PDI PHOTO

Without the scratched Kitty Hawk to contend with, Hazmoore got off the gates with gusto, with Lyonnais giving the early challenge while Serena, Golden Ballet and Perfect Storm watched from behind.

Lyonnais ranged up right Hazmoore at the far turn but the latter didn't falter, surprising fans who thought she'd crumble at that point.

Hazmoore, bred by Marho chair Sandy Javier, rounded the home turn a good two lengths ahead of Lyonnais and that cushioned her enough to hold off the late-rushing Golden Ballet.

Sent off as the top pick because of her First Gentleman Silver Cup win recently, Golden Ballet settled for P112,500 under Val Dilema, a substitute for the suspended Jonathan Hernandez.

Lyonnais, the 2nd Binay Cup champion, finished third for P62,500, while Serena ended up fourth for P25,000. Perfect Storm was fifth and last.

Hazmoore was the far third in the betting, attracting only P51,472 compared to Golden Ballet's P655,954.

Also shining for the day were import Absolute Charmer, who ruled Division II, and Hermie Esguerra's Kayang Kaya, who mauled her more seasoned rivals in the San Miguel Beer Trophy Race.

Veterans Manolito "Butchoy" Daquis and Dominador "Rapid Fire" Borbe Jr. rode Absolute Charmer (Entrepreneur-Banter) and Kayang Kaya (Lioubovnik-Mina's Star), respectively.

Beginner's luck

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I AM happy for my friend Rey Briones, a former colleague at the Evening Post, for winning in impressive fashion his debut in the World Slasher 8-Cock Derby held at the Araneta Coliseum on June 16, 18 and 20. Those who smirked at him when he decided to join this star-studded derby–now widely regarded as the "Olympics of Cockfighting"–now found themselves laughing on the other side of their faces because his phenomenal triumph (seven wins in eight fights) has proven beyond any reasonable doubt that he is deserving of their respect and recognition.

His name may not ring a bell, let alone strike fears in the country's cockfighting legends, but after that World Slasher victory, Rey Briones is not out of place with the likes of past champions Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, the unsinkable James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Teopaco and multi-awarded Jun Santiago, the cocker's cocker.

"I didn't expect to beat the elite field," said newcomer Briones moments after his Islander RB sealed the world championship which he shared with veteran campaigner Matt Bitanga. "*Suwerte lamang po*," humbly added the tabloid editor who only last month won the "Cocker of the Year" award of the Pasay City Cockers Association.

The emerging talent of 2003, Briones started fielding entries in selected provincial and Metro Manila derbies in March last year. His early days in the sport promised nothing lofty, but his fierce dedication and passion for cockfigting (even if the sport hardly gets special treatment from the media) soon paid handsome dividends. His handler/trainer (at the World Slasher Derby) is Rene Advincula, youngest brother of the late Rudy Advincula, who once handled the roosters of Nene Araneta; and Baby Advincula (Pasay City Circuit), while his gaffer is Lemy Esguerra.

Briones takes care of some 80 fighting cocks and around 200 bull stags in his modest farm in Bacolod City, where he bred and raised these World Slasher winners, all of which are first generation imported cocks of Jimmy Aces cross-bred with Boston-Roundhead. His winning percentages is 65.3 percent, which is not bad for a beginner.

***

OLYMPIC TRIVIA. History tells us that in ancient times, Heracles, the strongest of all men, challenged his four brothers to a race before the gods in the fields of Olympia to set the stge for the beginning of the ancient Games. The recorded date was 776 BC, a time when the Greeks marked their calendars in four-year periods called Olympiads. The Games, which took the character of a festival of sports, were held continuously for almost 1,200 years. The athletes who won were hailed as heroes and often elevated to the status of royalty in their hometowns. Statues were built in their honor around the magnificent Temple of Zeus, near the Sacred Grove of Altis and the stadium of Olympia.

In 393 AD, the Roman Emperor Theodosius declared the Games corrupt and ended them. Centuries of earthquakes and floods buried Olympia and the Temple of Zeus until 1870 when German excavations unearthed the beauty and magnificent statues of the classical Greek Games. These archeological findings in the sacred ground of Olympia fascinated Baron Pierre de Coubertin so much that he was inspired to conceive the idea of reviving the modern Olympic Games.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon 2003; Day 2 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.); First Round, Day 2; 10:30 a.m. (r); Second Round, Day 3; 7 p.m.; Star Sports - The best tennis players continue their quest in winning the third grand slam event of the year.

GOLF: LPGA Kellogg - Keebler Classic; 10 a.m.; ESPN - First round action goes into full swing from Aurora, Illinois. US Open; 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN - Take a look back at third round action from Olympia Fields, Illinois.

BASKETBALL: Pistons vs Bulls, Game 3, 1989 Eastern Conference Finals; 11 a.m. (r - 10:30 p.m.); Solar Sports - A 26-year old Michael Jordan plays one of his best games of his young career, but will it be enough to the Bad Boys of Detroit?

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Race 4--1. Silver Lining 2. Hummingbird/Very Sharp 3. Sir Olizon 4. Bold Lucky 5. River Bandit
Race 5--1. Empire King 2. Deputy Orfa/Forbers Park 3. Last Dance 4. Guest House 5. Be My Lady
Race 6--1. La Española 2. Steel Wheel 3. Gold Marlin 4. Lady Be Gold
Race 7--1. Batang Cabu 2. Magnanimous 3. Silver Dollar 4. Masagana 5. Scene Stealer
Race 8--1. Key to Heaven 2. Agimat 3. Voltes May 4. Kathy Rose 5. Portal Dancer
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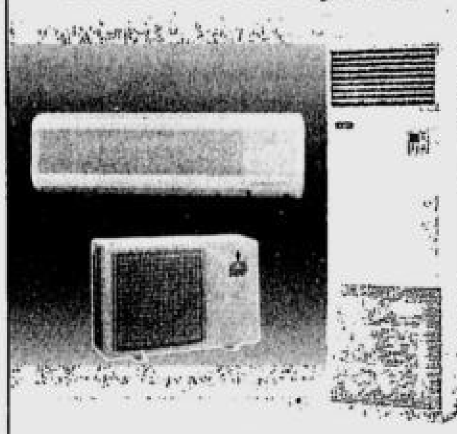

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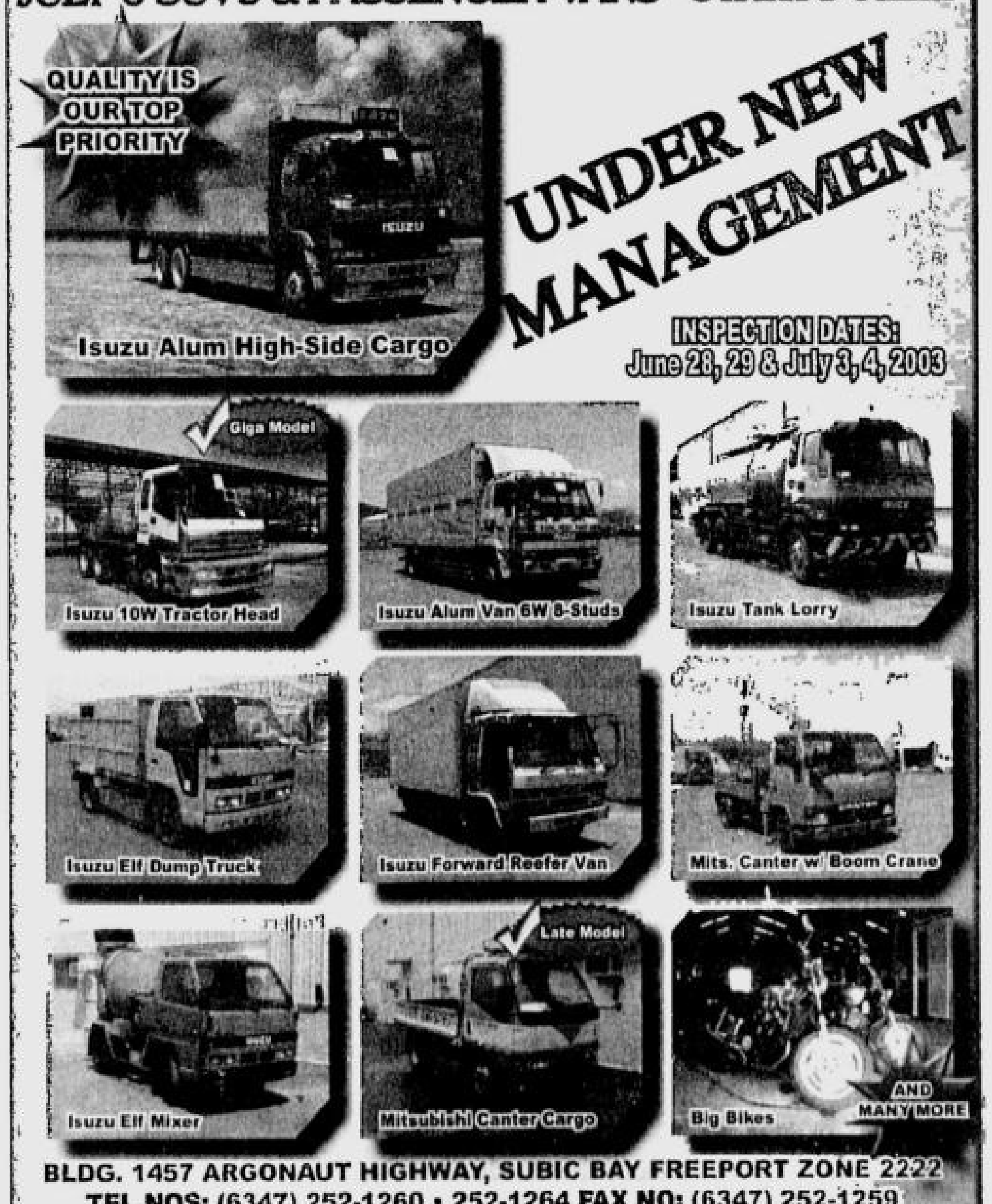

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3 ADAPTATION	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HULK 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	Onstage REX RELOADED July 1 - 8:00 pm NANETTE I. W/ GARY V. July 3, 9pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ANG TANGING INA 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30	3 ADAPTATION
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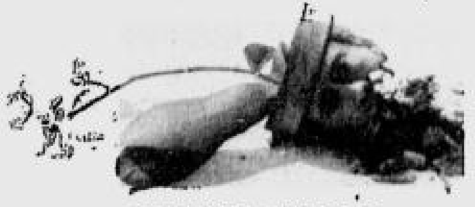

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7 ANG TANGING INA
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6 HIRAM

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Antipolo concert honors OFWs

TOP SINGERS and bands will perform in honor of Overseas Filipino Workers and their families in a concert called "There's No Place Like Home," at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City on July 5.

SHOW TIME

The performers include Dulce, the April Boys, Gino Padilla, Kyla, according to Lady Warriors Production and Entertainment which is putting up the show.

Jamie Rivera and Lloyd Umali will be the special guests.

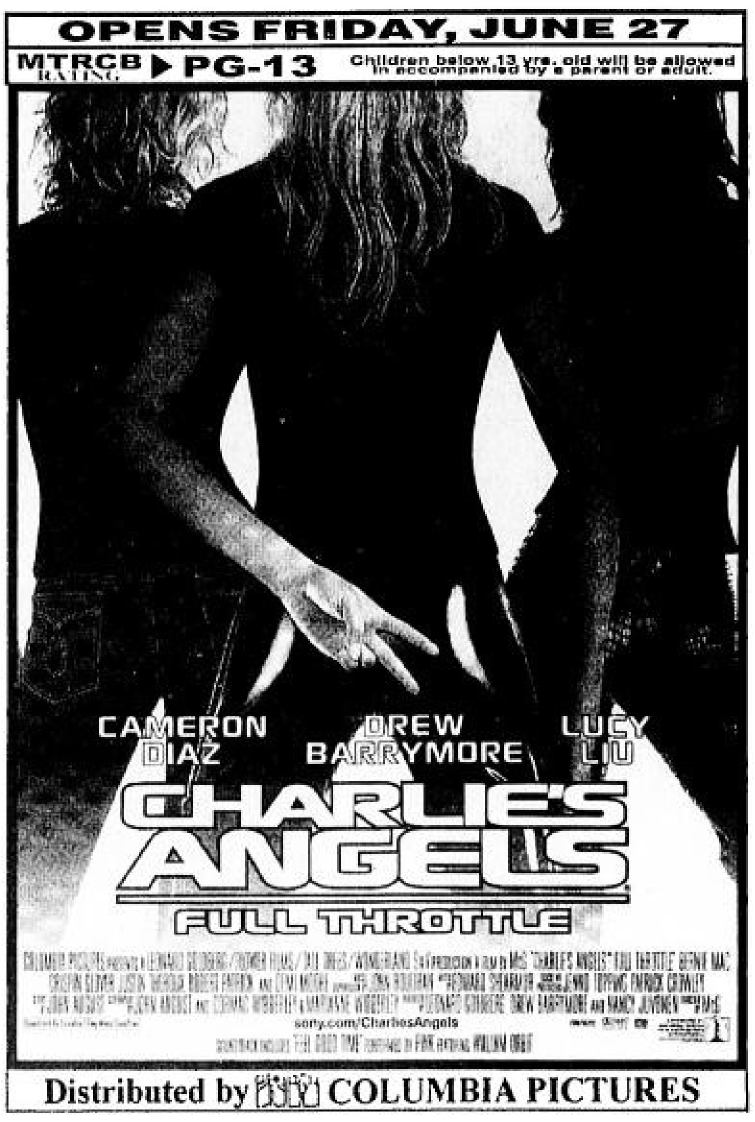
Also performing are Karen Timbol, Michael Laygo, Gilbert Golez, Lloyd Zaragosa, Efrem Malaki, Gary Cruz, Joy Isabel and Sarah Balabagan, herself a former overseas worker who is now also a recording artist.

Original songs about overseas Filipino workers that will be performed in the concert have been compiled in an album, also called "There's No Place Like Home," also produced by Lady Warriors.

The album is now available in CDs and cassettes and is exclusively distributed by Galaxy Records.

Proceeds from the concert and from the album sales will go to the OFW Family Club to fund projects for its members and their families; the special children of the Philippine Special Olympic Foundation, and the Philippine Christian Academy of Antipolo which is providing free education to poor children living in Sitio San Lorenzo Ruiz in Antipolo City.

For tickets to the show, call 943-3010, 696-1203, or 258-3139.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Ali 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
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Ali 3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 4	THE HULK
Ali 5	THE HULK
Ali 6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
Ali 7	TANGING INA
ARANETA COLISEUM	
June 27	GMA AT 53 ANNIVERSARY
June 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
June 29	PBA GAMES
July 5	MARTIN/REGINE - REPEAT
July 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
July 13 & 17	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALAB NG LAHI
B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
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CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
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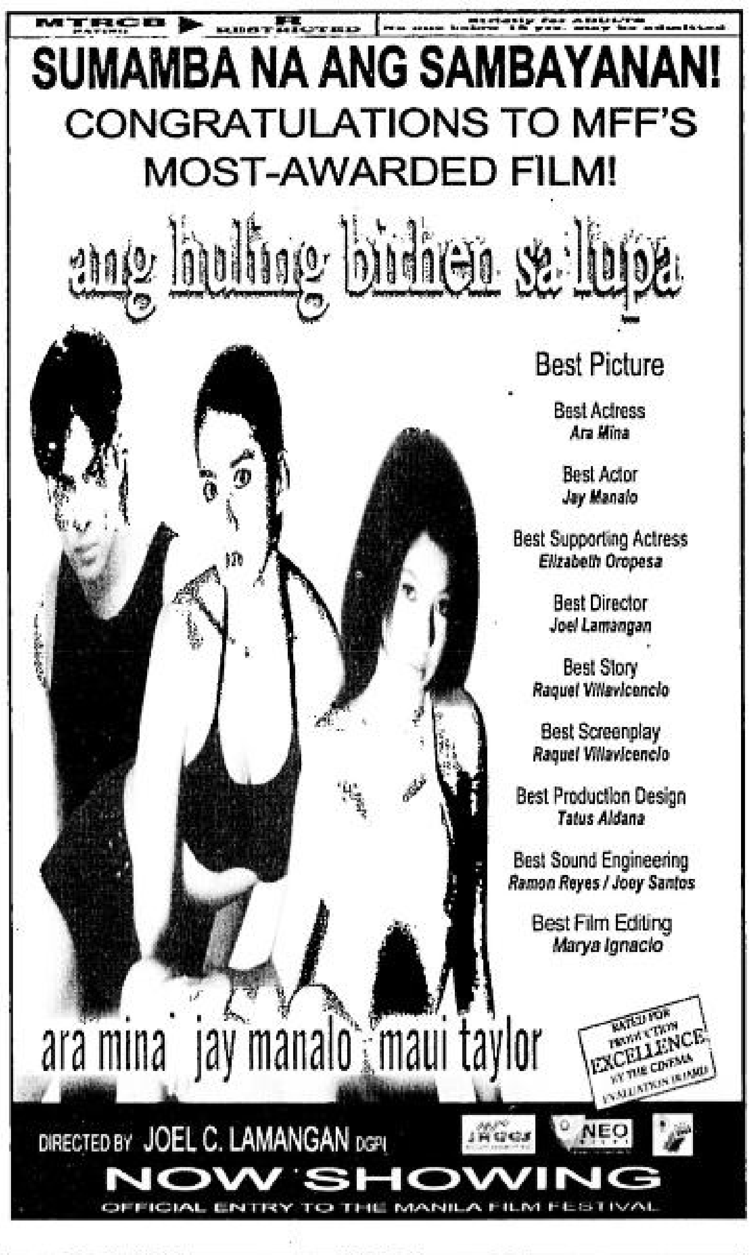
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA 2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	SANIB
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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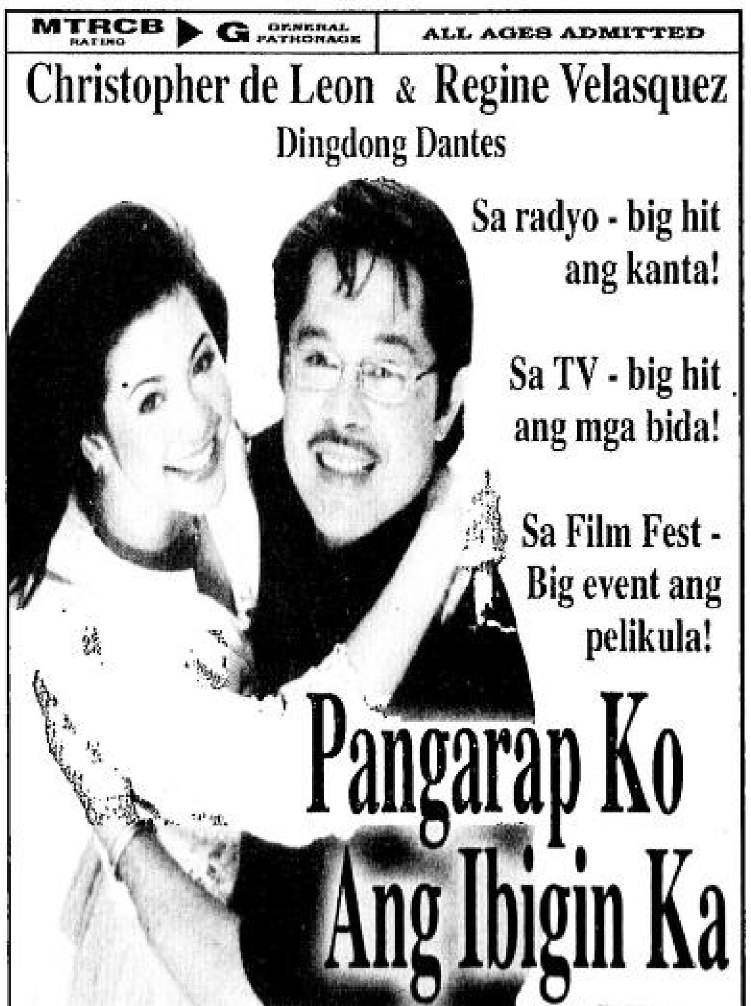
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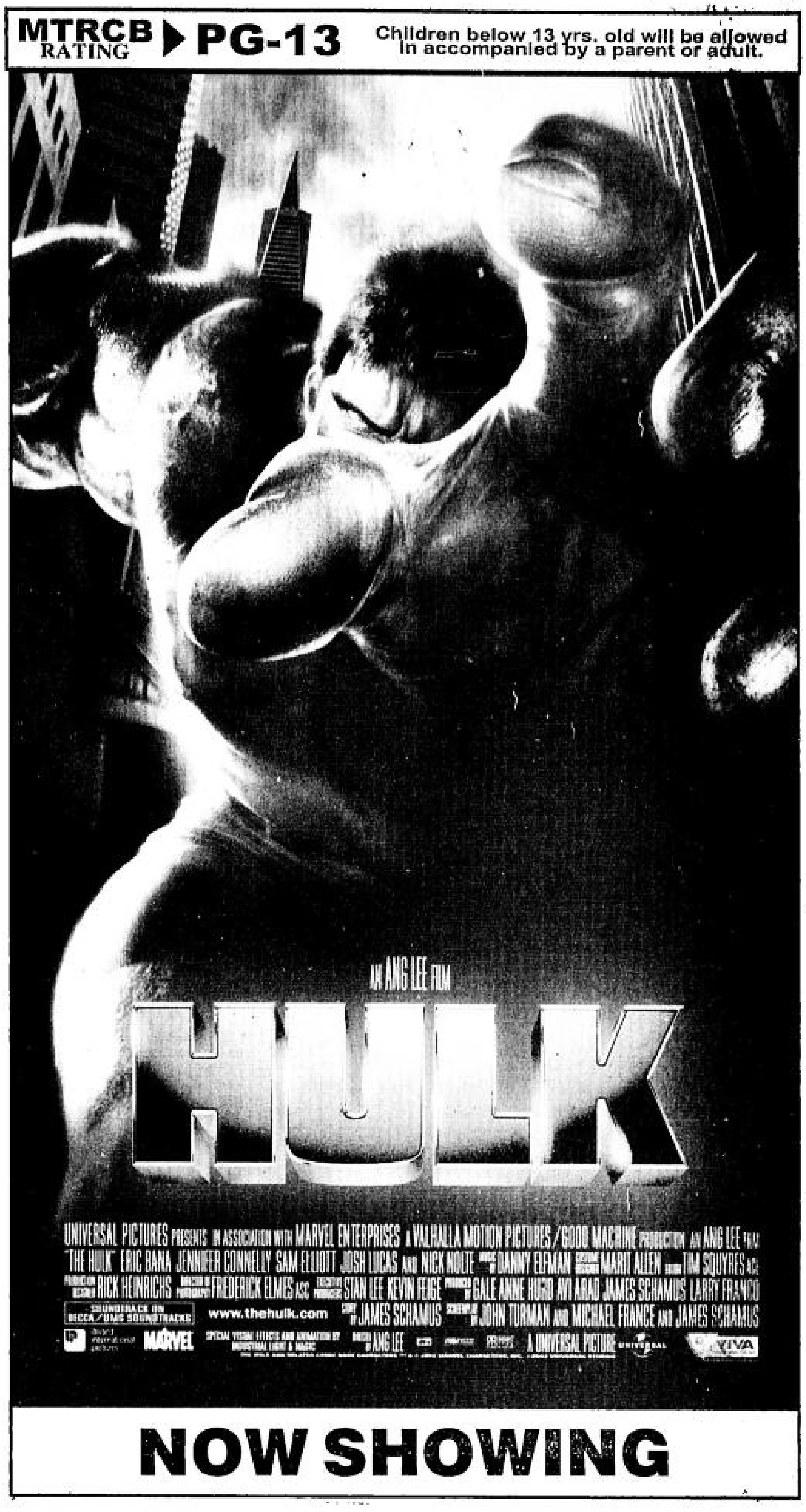
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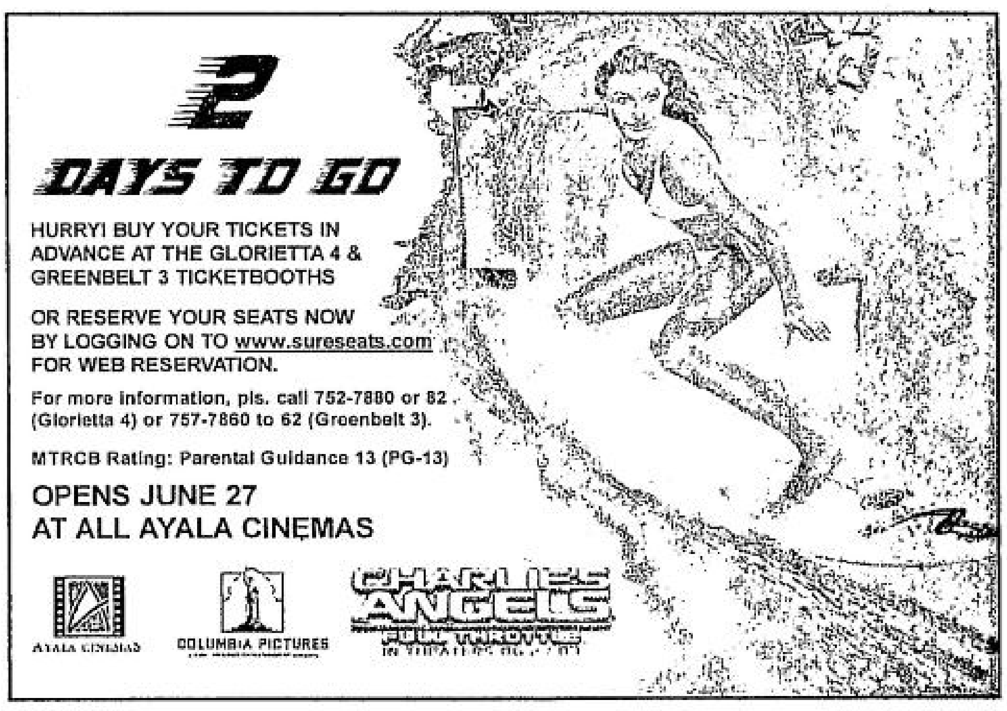
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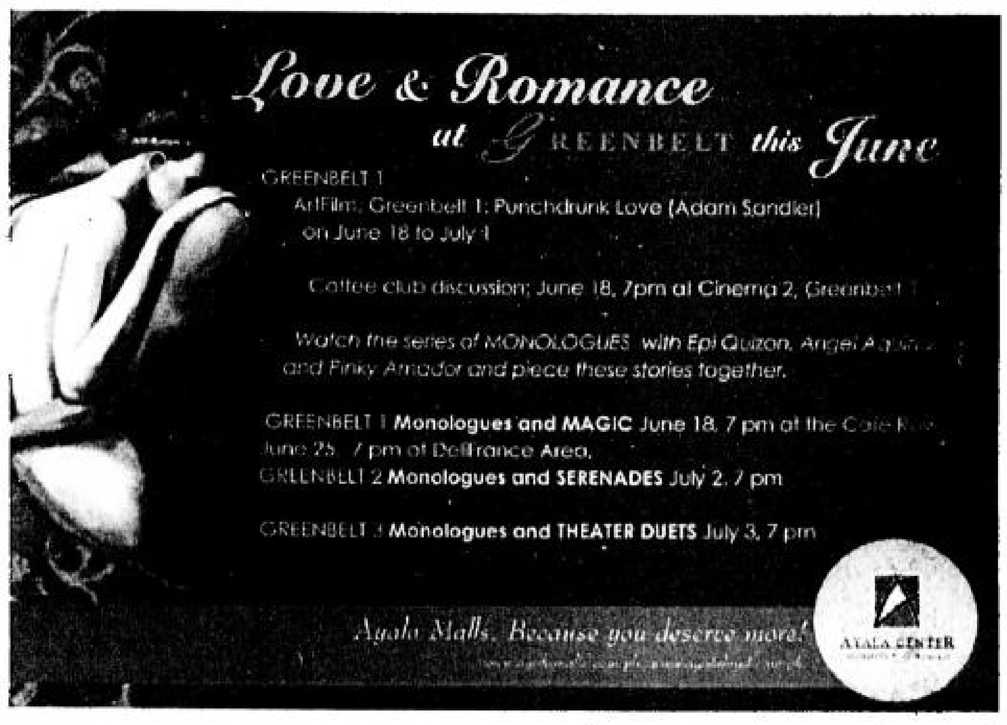
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Fanny Serrano opens house of his 'answered prayers'

By Nini Valera

STYLE icon Fanny Serrano, who carved his reputation on the faces of famous local actresses with his make-up brush, on Monday opened another avenue for his creativity: a one-stop wedding shop.

The couture house carries his name and houses his custom-made clothes, beauty salon and a bistro.

"Answered prayers" was how the 50-something Serrano described his venture, which he opened with a fashion show hosted by pop artist Pops Fernandez.

"If there is a need for a new outlet for creativity, then I would pursue it," said Serrano, whose rise to celebrity in the '80s included a foray in the movies.

"I would be the lead star's buddy, the shoulder to cry on, the sidekick," Serrano said of his roles in various movies.

In real life, Serrano is also a shoulder to cry on, according to Pops.

"TF (Tita Fanny) is a confidante to many stars," she said during one spiel. "But he is one of the reasons why the stars are so beautiful, so glamorous in the movies."

Serrano himself admits that if he could write a book about the confidences he's heard from his many customers, it would end all tell-all books.

"But they know that whatever they revealed to me would never come out in public," he said. "If I had only saved the tears of these actresses, I would be able to fill a tub."

In an unguarded moment in their repartee, Pops contracted Serrano to create her trousseau "if (a wedding) would happen to my life again."

Guests at the lunch reception, held in Seranno's shop at 69 Scout Rallos St., Tomas Morato in Quezon City,' included Serrano's best friend, ABS-CBN'S Charo Santos-Concio. Singer Anna Fegi performed after the fashion show.

"This is one of the happiest moments in my life," said a teary-eyed Serrano. "But most of all, this legitimizes my profession as fashion designer. In most award shows where an actress wore my gown, and she was praised for it and asked who did it, people would be surprised to find out that I was the one who created it. So, there's always that element of suspended disbelief. People had always associated me with make-up, hairstyles, not fashion. Now, I'm out to show another facet of style."

SERRANO

Claudine is Dominic's newest girlfriend

SHOW TIME

CLAUDINE Barretto takes a break from her role in "Buttercup" as leading lady to Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual and Carlos Agassi, to be the guest leading lady to Dominic Ochoa, Marvin Agustin and Vhong Navarro on "Whattamen," tonight, right after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."

The guesting stint marks Claudine's first appearance in the hit sitcom since December 2001. Michelle Bayle is also a guest in tonight's episode.

Claudine plays the demure Eunice, the newest girlfriend of resident womanizer Ernest (Dominic). While Eunice is a sweet girl, she's not about to let Ernest's charms get in the way of her common sense, as she follows up on her suspicions that Ernest has another girl on the side, who turns out to be Michelle. Can Ernest get the help of friends and housemates like Matty (Marvin), Elton (Vhong) and Tita Viky (Ai-Ai de las Alas) to keep the girls from finding out about his secrets?

Lani's music helps ease...

From page A31

ed in the international pageants. **Carla Gay Balingit** took up Spanish before she went to Panama for the Miss Universe pageant. So did runners up **Noela Mae Evangelista** and **Kate Baesa.**

Binibining Pilipinas International **Jhezarie Javier** and Binibining Pilipinas World **Rafaela Yunon** are students in Japanese language, in preparation for the pageants to be held in Japan.

Even Berlitz chair **Renato Constantino** took up Mandarin.

Last year, shipping magnate **Miguel Aboitiz** took up German.

Former Binibining Pilipinas-Universe title holder **Joyce Ann Burton** is an English language instructor at Berlitz. Theater actor **Joel Trinidad**, son of veteran actor-comedian **Noel Trinidad**, is also an English instructor, specializing on accent reduction. Another stage actor, **Richard Cunanan**, teaches English.

I recently finished my second level of French at Berlitz, under the ever-ebullient but very patient instructor **Gerry Se**. My teacher is a magna cum laude graduate from the University of the Philippines, where he finished European Languages, so he is one of the best bets of Berlitz when it comes to language instructions.

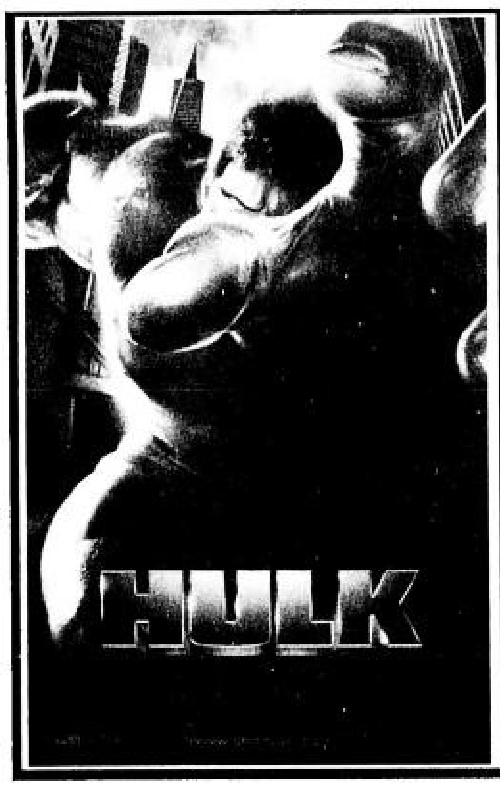
Gerry makes learning a second language easier for his students and definitely far from boring. In fact, it's fun. "*C'est marrant,*" as we say it in French.

Among my classmates in French are my fellow INQUIRER employee **Margie Quimpo-Espino**, Village Voice editor **Susan de Guzman**, Philippine Star Life columnist **Tanya Lara** and publicist **Joy Buensalido,** who heads her own PR firm.

Another writer, **Abe Florendo**, joined our class but only for the first level.

Of course, we vowed to continue our French course and enroll in the third level which starts in September.

Berlitz is on the 2nd floor of the Peninsula Court Building at the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Makati Avenue, Makati City, with phone numbers 817-9319 and 813-2231.



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Ricky Reyes ready for opening of Beauty Central

CELEBRITIES are coming to mark the opening today of Ricky Reyes' Beauty Central at the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

Megastar Sharon Cuneta, Presidential daughter Luli Macapagal-Arroyo, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and lawyer Rafael Ortigas will lead the ribbon-cutting after a motorcade around the Greenhills area.

Stars of both ABS-CBN and GMA 7 will also grace the occasion.

Located on the second floor of Greenlanes, the Beauty Central is a 2,500-square-meter facility offering a complete line of services for men and women. It houses a beauty salon, a spa, a flower shop, a magazine shop, a fragrance store, a jewelry shop, an accessories store, among others.

It also has a plastic and laser surgery clinic with two operating rooms equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, as well as about 14 doctors' clinics that offer services in dermatology, cardiology, internal medicine, ophthalmology, dentistry, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and many more.

Comedian Arnel Ignacio opens his own wig and hairpieces boutique called Arnelli's. ABS Bitter Herbs has a booth of its products. HBC displays the latest in beauty products.

Let's Face It offers the latest in facial and skin care treatment. Comfort Zone is a hair spa that also treats hair and scalp problems like thinning and falling.

Beauty Central also has a coffee shop, and Predictions with fortune tellers.

Says beauty business icon Ricky Reyes, the person behind Beauty Central: "Women often wish that their doctors, dentist, their parlor, their travel agent, their spa are all under one roof. Now they are all under one roof."

Other establishments at Beauty Central include Cart Fragrance Store, Magascene, Axcesoria, Dental City, Femme Fatale for women's personal hygiene and health effects, Peppermint Tree for toiletry and bath needs, Diamonds and Gold by Ashley, and a Philippine Airlines ticketing counter.

Beauty Central can be accessed through the Greenlanes entrance and through its main gate located beside Mister Donut.

A men's section called Man's World is opening soon as a Beauty Central annex.

REYES

'Hulk': Monster...

From page A31

Special effects-heavy scenes tend to look like a prolonged video game, where fighter jets and military choppers are sent on a mission of futility to capture the rampaging man-monster. They may look good, but the sense of danger isn't really there. Still, it deserves mentioning that they look awesome, for some mostly computer-generated, actor-less sequences.

When the Hulk moves, that's exactly how readers would picture him, especially when he leaps across miles of canyons and deserts. Suspension of disbelief still applies to his super-durable purple pants, which don't stay stretched to their limits. It still shrinks to normal when he becomes Bruce Banner. But for those who might be interested, yes, Bana's wet posterior makes a brief appearance.

Heavy drama, a love story, father-child conflicts — these make "Hulk" complex and substantial. But the bluster and violence of earth-shaking punches and the character's unleashed fury happily give the film its mindless, popcorn alter-ego, too.

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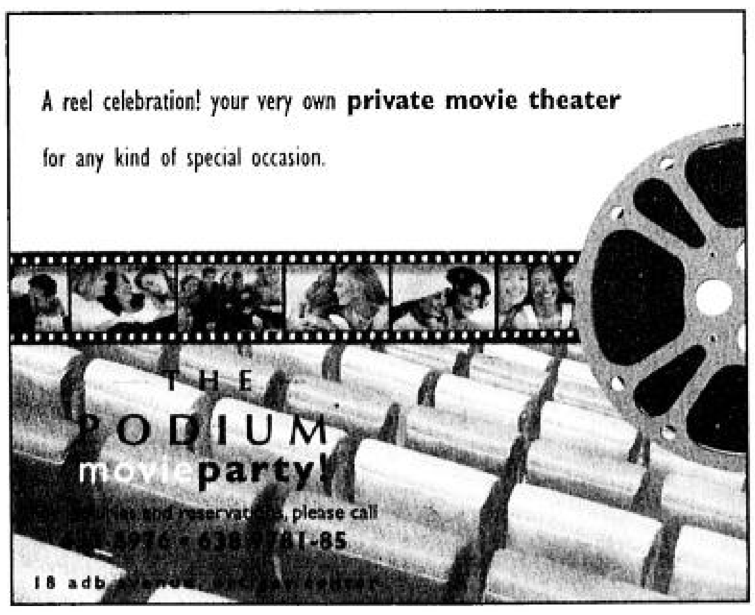

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Monster in a melodrama

BREAKING LOOSE, Bruce Banner is transformed into an un-jolly green giant.

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

JUST A month after the success of "X-Men 2", another Marvel Comics property seems poised to be the next big screen super-moneymaker as "Hulk" smashes its way into theaters.

No, this isn't the '70s TV version with Bill Bixby and Lou Ferrigno that you might remember (although Ferrigno briefly appears in this one, albeit as a different character). The not-so-jolly green giant makes his bone-breaking debut courtesy of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Wedding Banquet" director Ang Lee and a small, tight cast of talented thespians.

The character is undeniably popular. It's been over four decades since its inception by comics legends Stan (no relation to Ang) Lee and Jack "The King" Kirby. The Hulk has appeared beyond comic books in the aforementioned five-year show, several animated serials, and a slew of merchandise, from toys to everything else imaginable, throughout those 40-plus years of existence.

Romeo and Juliet

The Jekyll and Hyde aspect of the character (an ordinary person's transformation into a merciless brute) is easily identifiable and appealing, also reminiscent of stories about werewolves and other changelings of myth. He's also a Frankenstein's monster, according to Stan Lee, in the sense that he's a sympathetic monster minding his own business.

BANA as Banner.

As if the premise weren't difficult enough for the meek protagonist (whose repressed rage is made manifest manifold, and how), scientist Bruce Banner (Aussie actor Eric Bana) has to face a traumatic past that's returned to haunt him through his brilliant but cuckoo dad David (Nick Nolte).

This classic case of generation gap is compounded further by a Romeo and Juliet hitch: David isn't particularly fond of Bruce's colleague and love interest Betty (Jennifer Connelly). Her father, General Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross (Sam Elliott) feels exactly the same way about Bruce as well.

Accidentally bombarded with supposedly lethal gamma radiation, Bruce becomes a green-skinned titan of incredible physical strength, fueled by intense rage and anxiety. But beneath the imposing exterior is a clear and genuine affection for Betty, his occasional Beast a devoted prince and protector to her unwavering Beauty.

Ultimate sidekick

Their tragic connection is the only thing that might save the world from the creature's destructive tendencies, as several forces seeking to contain and exploit his newfound power provoke him at every turn.

"Hulk" is overly humorless and melodramatic, but it works that way. This will please fans of the character or his monthly series, as the icon is given a very respectful treatment. This can turn some viewers ambivalent, however, because it does take itself too seriously.

Where's Rick Jones? He's the pivotal character from the title that isn't necessarily the comic relief, but this sidekick (Marvel's enduring, ultimate sidekick, in fact) provides the lighter moments and free-spiritedness that contrasts the Hulk's and Banner's anger management issues.

The closest thing to humor here is the presence of the always-pesky Glenn Talbot (Josh Lucas), a perpetual pain in the butt even in the comics. But ultimately, it's about Bruce Banner's miserable excuse of a life, made more complicated by a cathartic persona that he admittedly enjoys. He's unquestionably the poster boy for bullied kids (and even adults) who fought back.

Split screen

Ang Lee's storytelling is clear and creative. The screen often splits into two, or as many as five portions, resembling comic book panels or frames. The main difference, obviously, is the use of simultaneous goings-on in the "panels," which is a visual technique that can be seen in the TV show "24" and certain Semisonic and Cibo Matto videos, but to a much toned-down degree.

The fading in and out of parts of some scenes (walls, backgrounds, etc.) look inspired, strangely enough, by the computer-aided "segues" in the old "Home Improvement" sitcom.

MONSTER/A30

Lani's music can help ease heartache

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS
Leah Salterio

CURING a heartache is always a painful process, but listening to beautiful music can help ease the pain.

Lani Misalucha's latest ballad, "Tila," is one song which speaks of hope and a promise of a new or better day. The sun will shine after the rain, it says.

Lani has apparently scored another hit with "Tila," the carrier single of her new album, "Loving You," from Viva Records. "Tila" has been getting extensive airplay on radio and the album may well be on its way to the gold record mark.

The refreshing Filipino ballad, penned by **Lisy Diy**, ranks above current OPM fare as it analogizes the varying states of the heart with the ever-changing weather.

When you hear the song for the first time, you have to listen closely, if only to make sure the singer is Lani. The song doesn't sound like her because it doesn't have the trademark histrionics that her previous recordings were known for.

MISALUCHA

"Loving You," with 14 tracks, is a follow-up to Lani's 2000 release, "All Heart." Lani also stamps cover tunes with her own style, like **Minnie Ripperton**'s "Loving You," which is a staple in most of her concerts. She also has a remake of True Faith's "Muntik Nang Maabot ang Langit" and **Hajji Alejandro**'s "Tag-araw, Tag-ulan."

The tracks of "Loving You" require vocal flexibilities, from the jukebox tune "Ibigin Mo Ako" and "Sinaktan ang Puso" to the elegant mood of "Forgive Me for Dreaming," from the melodrama of "Pinapangarap, Pinapanaginip" and "Makayanan Ko Kaya," to the country mood of "Sayang at Sinayang Mo."

GARCIA

Top composers contributed cuts to Lani's album, including **Willy Cruz**, **Edith Gallardo**, **Moy Ortiz**, **Chat Zamora** and even **Janno Gibbs**. The songs were arranged by Jay Durias, Marc Lopez, Marvin Querido and Arnold Buena.

Lani is on a mall tour to promote "Loving You." She will be at SM Megamall on June 26 and SM Bicutan on June 28.

After Sydney Poitier

EMILIO **Garcia** was recently involved in a controversy when he portrayed a true-to-life character as the husband of beauty expert **Elvie Pineda** in an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya" on ABS-CBN.

Pineda's husband criticized Emilio's portrayal, but the actor refused to react. The episode, which starred **Lorna Tolentino**, topped the ratings charts.

In this week's edition of "Nagmamahal, Manay Gina," Emilio stars in the episode "Crush Ko si Sir," a teleplay inspired by the British-made movie "To Sir With Love."

Emilio plays the professor, the counterpart of Hollywood actor **Sydney Poitier**'s character, who falls in love with his student.

"Nagmamahal, Manay Gina" airs daily, 3 p.m., on GMA 7.

On the big screen, Emilio will soon be seen in the domestic drama, "Kiskisan," formerly titled "Rice Mill," directed by **Joven Tan**. It is about two brothers, Emilio and **Gardo Versoza**, and the women in their lives. Also in the cast are **Ana Capri**, **Glenda Garcia**, **Halina Perez**, **Red Riviera**, with **Mona Lisa**, **Anita Linda** and **Allen Dizon**.

Celebrities at Berlitz

THE 1-YEAR-OLD Berlitz Language School in Makati City boasts of celebrity-studded students and instructors.

Among its recent enrollees is Fil-Am actor **Paolo Montalban**, who is learning Filipino.

Paolo is in the country to do TV and film work. He has just released his debut album from Viva Records.

Last year, he appeared in Star Cinema's "American Adobo," directed by **Laurice Guillen**. He is expected to do another movie this year.

This year's Binibining Pilipinas candidates also took crash courses at Berlitz before they compet-

LANI'S/A30

Villains you love to hate

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

MOVIEGOERS like to root for and identify with a hero, but there's no denying that they love villains as well–if only to have them around so they can hate them. It's all a question of contrast, of course: Goodness wouldn't seem as bright and noble if it couldn't be seen in relation to the blackness and sordidness of evil.

For every hero, there must be a villain to make life so miserable for him that his heroic attributes will be compelled to come to the fore, shine through with utmost brightness, and give evil-doers and mischief-makers their just desserts.

Thus, throughout film history, heroes of the cinema have villains to thank for bringing out the best in them. Who's your favorite big-screen villain, the vilest viper to crawl out of cinematic hell?

Younger viewers get the creeps recalling the hasty psychos and weirdos in teen slasher films, or dolls and puppets gone devilishly demented like Chuckie, or wallflowers pushed over the brink into hellish mass violence, like Carrie.

Those crazies are pretty terrifying, but some film analysts point out that the "in your face" horrors in today's movies aren't quite as scary as the more subtle and implied terrors of older films.

The perverse logic goes this way: If you show all of the violence, you end up limiting its imaginative possibilities, since the monsters conjured up by the imagination are ultimately more terrifying than weirdos in real life.

Consequently, some of the most horrific villains in the movies are those who strike terror in the viewer's imagination, where the terrifying possibilities are limitless.

This is why many viewers cite Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter as the most horrifying film villain ever. As cannily underplayed by **Anthony Hopkins** in "Silence of the Lambs," he was a genius who could run psychological circles around the law enforcers who dared to think that they could keep him from committing his bizarre and exotic crimes.

As Hopkins played Hannibal, what you saw was not what you got, so the viewers was trapped in the vise of the horrifying unseen and unpredictable. No "in your face" killer could hope to match the power of the unseen and the unknowable!

Other "popular" villains include Norman Bates in **Alfred Hitchcock**'s "Psycho," and Darth Vader in the "Star Wars" movies.

Here again, the "unseen" factor plays a major role: As played by **Tony Perkins**, Norman Bates was sympathetic weakling–until the horror of his crime was revealed. And Darth Vader's full-face mask cut viewers off from what he was really thinking and feeling and thus left them unprepared for the viciousness of his villainous onslaughts.

In our book, however, the most terrifying screen villains are **Robert de Niro**'s character in "Cape Fear," and the devil in "The Exorcist."

De Niro's character was particularly terrifying because you couldn't "read" what he was going to do next and he kept coming up with one shocker after another, even after viewers thought that he had already been taken out of the terror equation.

As for the devil in "The Exorcist," he struck dread not so much as himself but with the horrible effect he had on his victims, whose suffering was sometimes unbearable to behold.

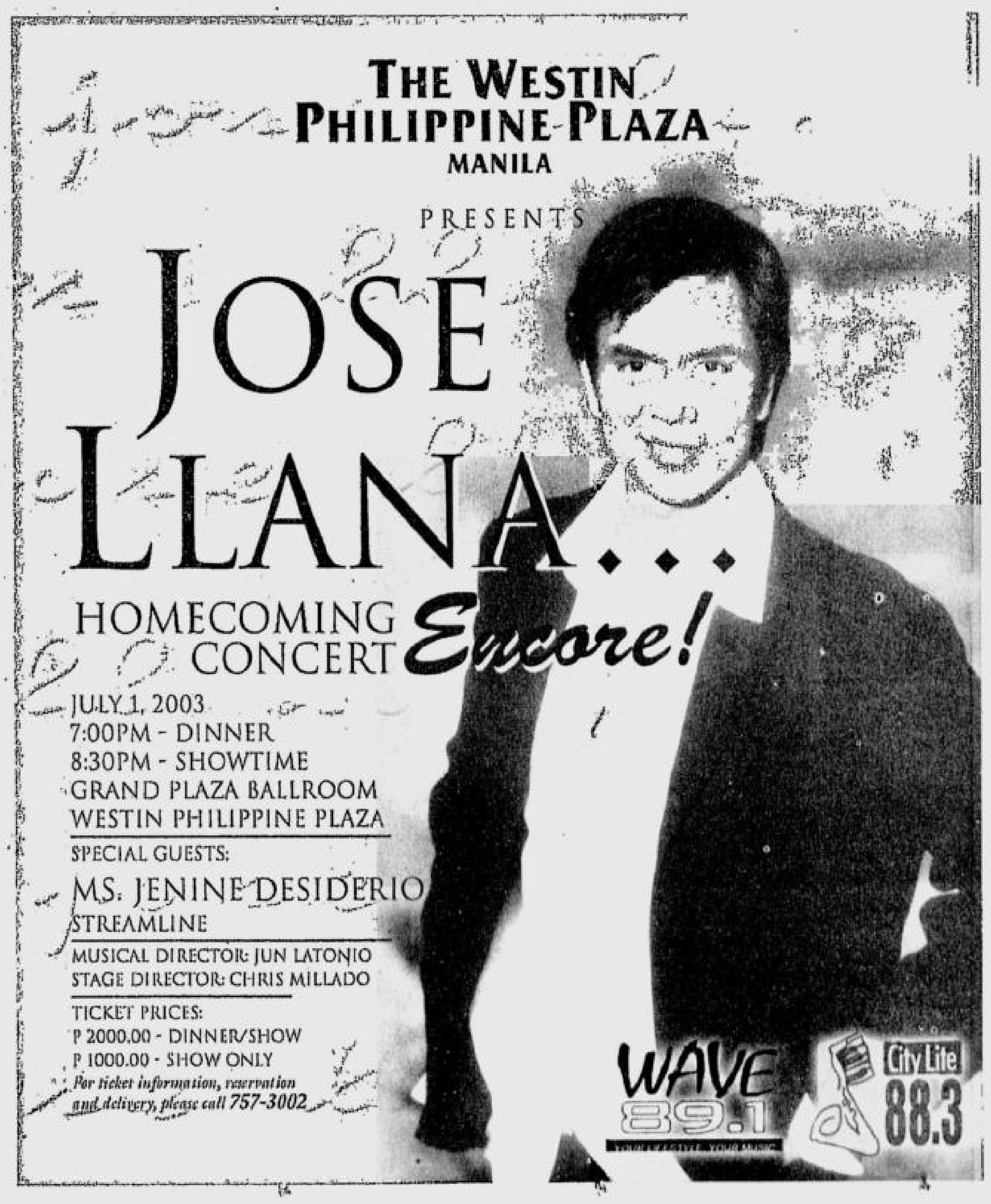
What about you, which movie villain has scared you the most?

ABS-CBN comedies rate well

METRO Manila Household TV Ratings for the week of May 25 to 31 show that there's always a place for wholesome family comedy as "Arriba Arriba" takes a 25.6 rating and 30-percent audience share.

"Whattamen" got a 22.8 rating and a 37-percent audience share on its Wednesday slot. The follow-up program, "Klasymeyts," scored an 18.5 rating and 37-percent audience share.

The Tuesday sitcom, "OK Fine! Whatever," rated 22.6 and got a 43-percent audience share. "Home Along Da Riles" received an 18.6 rating and a 29-percent audience share. And "Bida si Mister Bida si Misis" garnered a rating of 18 and a 39-percent share.



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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

DID YOU KNOW...

Our busy little *sosyal* bird who calls himself Poppinjay was lining up to buy tickets to "Bruce Almighty" at the Power Plant Mall in Makati Thursday when he heard the tall, thin young man in front of him ask a companion, who turned out to be **Cris Villonco,** "Where's your boyfriend?" "He's busy," Cris said. The thin guy said, *"Bakit ako, isang tawag lang ni* KC, *punta kaagad ako."* It turned out he was referring to KC Concepcion, who was in the same queue. Inside the cinema, KC sat between the guy and Cris, according to Poppinjay.

Eula to Ronnie: I'll see you in court

ACTRESS Eula Valdez yesterday sought the help of a lawyer in filing charges against her former live-in partner, Ronnie Quizon, whom she accused of repeatedly beating her up in the nine years that they were together.

Eula's talent manager, Cornelia Lee (Angge), told INQUIRER Entertainment that the the lawyer has warned the actress, known as television's villain Amor Powers, against talking any further about the relationship until formal charges have been filed in court.

Eula, 35, vowed to air in public all the dirty linen of Ronnie, with whom she has an 8-year-old son, Miguel.

Eula said she refused to talk about the trouble in their relationship after they separated in December 2002, but she decided to speak up after Ronnie appeared on TV last Saturday on ABS-CBN's "Showbiz Sabado" and accused her of causing their breakup by having a boyfriend while they were still together.

STOP TALKING already, Eula is told by her lawyer

"When 'Saan Darating ang Umaga' held a press conference last month, people were already urging me to talk about our separation," Eula said. "But I refrained from doing so."

She denied there was a third party involved in their breakup, but she admitted that she now has a boyfriend, Richard Litonjua, who is not from show biz.

Last Monday, Ronnie told Inquirer Entertainment that he is not dependent on Eula, contrary to her allegation that he didn't share the expenses at home, including their son's tuition.

"My family was hurt," said Ronnie, a son of comedy king Dolphy and brother of actors Eric and Eppy Quizon. "I also pay the bills at home. She was the one who paid our son's tuition this year, but she made me shoulder the expenses for his books and uniform. If she paid the tuition, did she have to announce it?"

Ronnie is assistant director in the IBC 13 travel show, "Road Trip," hosted by his brothers Eric and Eppy.

Ronnie also alleged that he read an e-mail from Litonjua to the actress last December, which caused them to fight and eventually separate. He said she also went to Boracay with the guy.

"Even after I learned they were in Boracay, she didn't hear anything from me," Ronnie said.

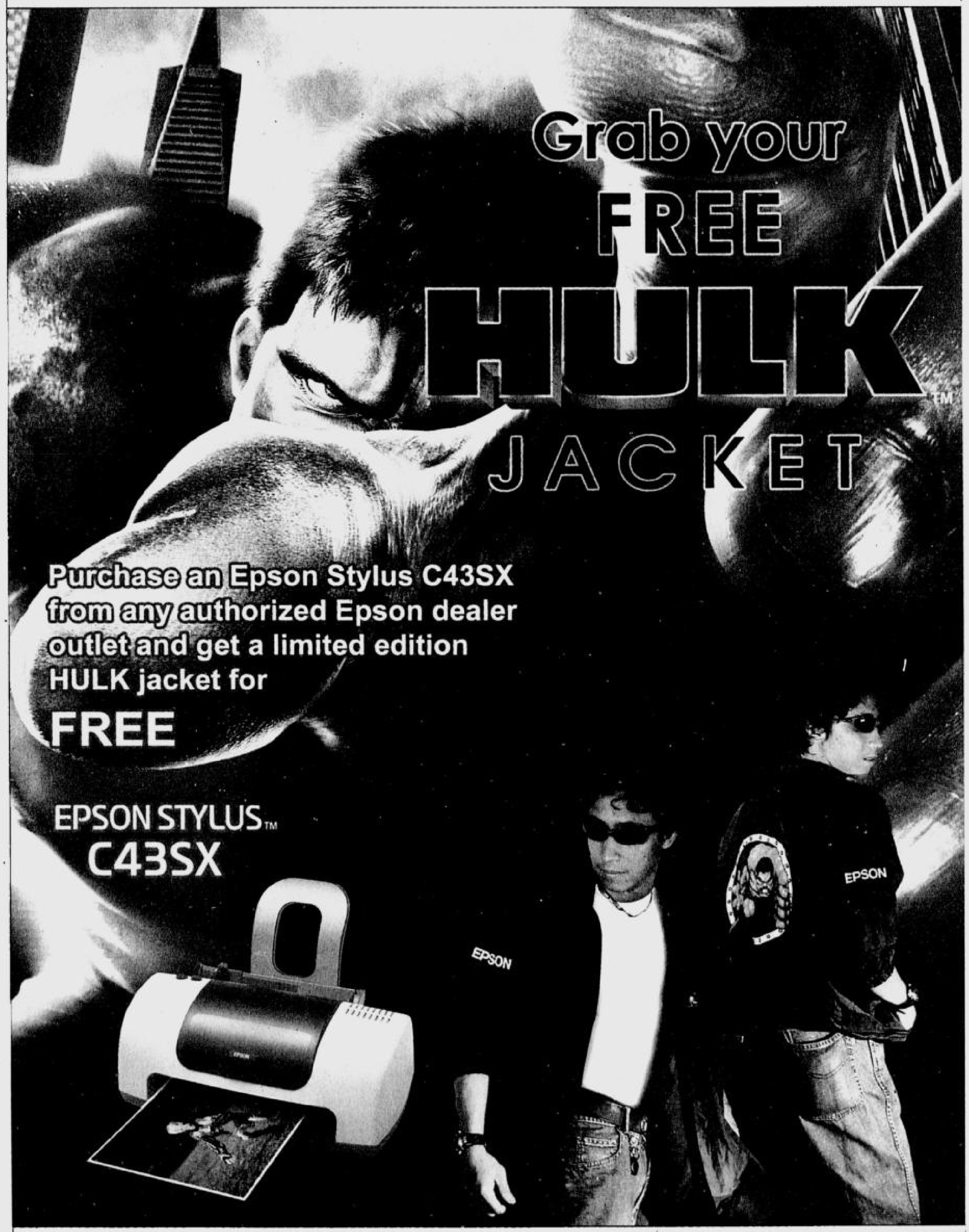
"What does she want now, mud-slinging *kami*? I don't want that to happen. People will choose to believe what they want. They will never find out what's true or not.

"I don't like scandals. I was only forced to talk by people around me who know the truth. I don't want to drag our son into this mess. I just want to move on."

While Eula accused Ronnie of punching and slapping her during the years they were together, Ronnie insisted she has a violent nature.

"She throws tantrums," he said. "She even reads witchcraft books. If I'm the one who is violent, how come *sa kanya takot ang anak namin?"*

UP AGAIN
Mariah Carey sings in a Seoul concert to kick off her world tour. She will do shows in Japan until July 15 and then start a 20-date North American roadshow. REUTERS



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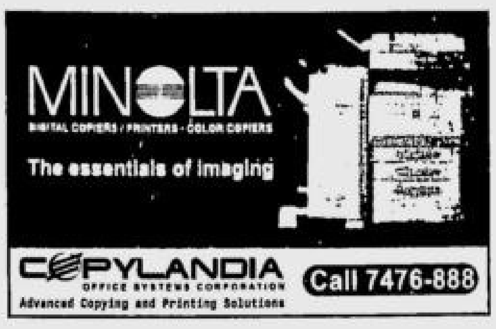
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Electricity sales up 6% in first 5 months

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ELECTRICITY sales grew by more than 6 percent in January to May from a year earlier, Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) president Jesus Francisco said yesterday.

Sales of Meralco, the country's largest power distributor, to residential customers rose 8.37 percent year-on-year, while sales to commercial users grew 8.05 percent. Sales to industrial users increased 5 percent year-on-year.

This raised hopes that Meralco will be back in the black this year, with management expecting a net income of about P1 billion for 2003 on the back of a 3.2-percent sales growth.

Daniel Tagaza, Meralco chief financial officer, said during the firm's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday that the utility was expected to be profitable "by the second quarter" after a P300-million net loss in the first quarter.

This year's profit projection would be a turnaround from a net loss of P2 billion in 2002 attributed mainly to Meralco's inability to raise its electricity charges.

Francisco said the firm expected to perform better in 2003 mainly due to the Energy Regulatory, Commission's decision on the unbundling of rates, which resulted in an average increase of 8.65 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

"Our problem this year would be our cash flow, especially as we are faced with the refund to customers," Francisco said.

The utility is set to return P29 billion in income tax expenses that it passed on to its customers, for which Meralco has earmarked an average of P3 billion a year over the next nine years.

Meralco is currently implementing Phase 1 of the refund, which is estimated to cost a maximum of P2.1 billion. It had said it was ready to start by September the second phase of the refund worth P4.5 billion.

FRANCISCO

Francisco said in earlier interviews that Meralco had the money for the refund, except that maturing debt payments could make the cash flow tight.

In a media briefing after yesterday's meeting, company officials said stockholders had approved management's plan to borrow a maximum of $600 million.

Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said $400 million would serve to secure currently unsecured lenders while the $200 million would be a buffer for additional funding needs.

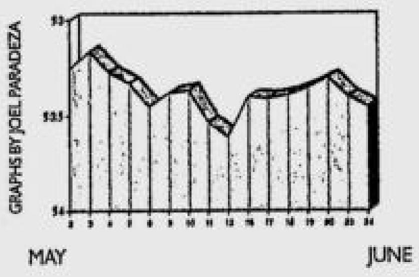
"We have unsecured long-term debts with ING Barings and Citibank NA totalling $220 million," Andrada said.

Aside from this, Meralco is liable to pay some P5.5 billion in short-term debts by July 21.

"There may be periods when there is pressure on our cash flow, but these amortizations or debt service could actually be met if, for example, the short-term lenders would term out or provide term financing, or if possible—on a more commercial basis—refinance current maturities," Andrada said. "That's what we are trying to do."

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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₱53.45 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 24, 2003

¥117.75 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 24, 2003

GOLD: $353.60-354.10
per ounce Hong Kong, June 24, 2003

STOCK MARKET

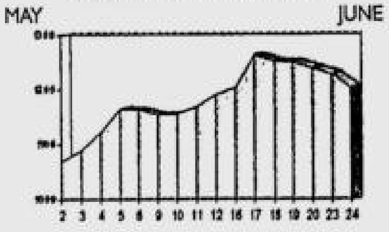
Stocks down 2.04%

SHARE prices closed 2.04 percent lower yesterday in line with the weakness in regional markets and overnight losses on Wall Street, dealers said.

"We tracked Wall Street's decline (Monday night. I think people are staying out

STOCKS/ B3

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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The bottom line is that, based on the above two points, and also the fact that our inventories are limited, the best time to purchase is **now**. The good news is that our BMW Flex Finance and other programs are still available to you so that you can engineer a flexible financing plan.

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Empowering People

Meralco to seek P9B in rebate from BIR; legal battle looms

By Elena R. Torrijos

MANILA Electric Co., the country's biggest electricity distributor, will ask the Bureau of Internal Revenue for a tax rebate of roughly P9 billion, and is threatening to file a civil case if the government agency refuses to return the amount.

The tax rebate could significantly cushion the impact of the P29-billion refund the Supreme Court had ordered Meralco to make to customers for electricity charges covering February 1994 to May 2003.

The refund effectively wiped out the company's profit for those years and, consequently, previous income tax payments made during the period should be returned, Meralco officials argued.

In an interview, Meralco general counsel Gil San Diego explained that the Meralco board last Monday ordered the legal department to prepare the P9-billion tax claim.

The formal claim would be filed as soon as the department gets the go-ahead from Meralco's executive committee, which could be as early as next week.

"If the BIR will give due course to our claim, it need not reach the courts. If the BIR denies it then we have no recourse but to go to court," San Diego said.

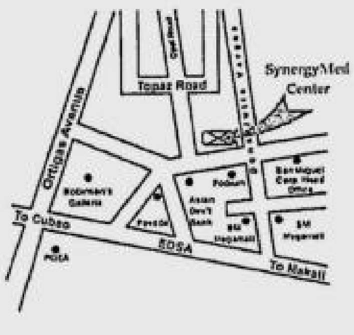
Under the rules and regulations of the BIR, if a company makes an erroneous tax payment, it has two years to file an amended tax return, which would seemingly preclude a refund on tax payments before 2000.

However, San Diego said that in its claim, Meralco would invoke the principle of "solutio indebiti" as provided in the Civil Code, meaning that erroneous payment had been made and it was only fair that whoever received it should return it to the one who made the mistake.

San Diego said it would be "undue enrichment" on the part of the government if the tax overpayments were not corrected.

"Since Meralco paid a tax not really due (the government) then it is only fair that Meralco should recover what it had paid," San Diego said.

Meralco would leave it up to the BIR to decide how to settle the tax claim, though San Diego said that "tax credits" would be acceptable.



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SM to build mall in Sta. Rosa, Laguna

PUBLICLY listed mall operator SM Prime Holdings Inc. of retail magnate Henry Sy plans to put up a shopping mall in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, after recently acquiring a parcel of land from Manila Electric Co.

In a press briefing yesterday, Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said the company sold the Sta. Rosa lot to SMPH for roughly P100 million.

According to an official of the SM group of companies, Meralco sold the property specifically for P129.77 million or an average of about P6,000 per square meter for the 21,269 sq.m. property.

The lot is adjacent to a 27-hectare property owned by SMPH.

The official said that SMPH plans to develop part of the now 29-hectare lot into a commercial development, part of which would include the establishment of a mall with an estimated project cost of P1.5 billion.

The mall would have a floor area of 85,000 sq.m. and would be located around the corner of the old national highway to the Mamplasan exit of the South Superhighway.

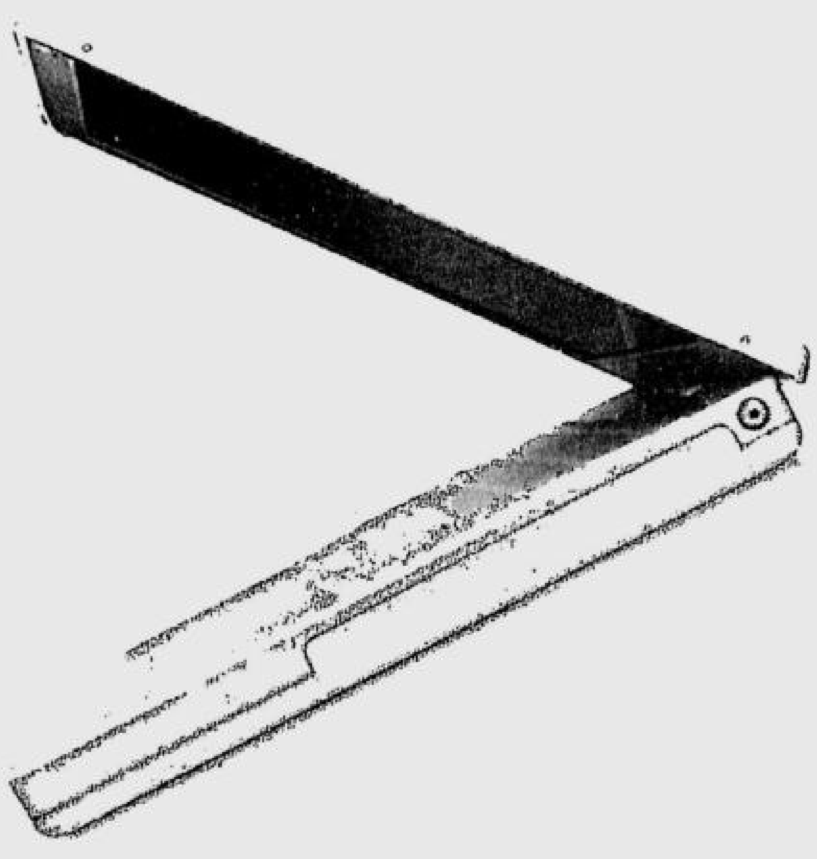
SMPH is seen to start construction of the mall next year. The company has recently started construction of SM City-San Lazaro at the former site of the San Lazaro racetrack in northern Manila.

Meanwhile, Meralco senior vice president and chief finance officer Daniel Tagaza said that Meralco had recently concluded an inventory of idle assets and would work with its sister company, Rockwell Land Corp., to develop the assets.

This would be a departure from earlier statements by Meralco officials that they would try to sell assets to cover for debt payments and other obligations.

Tagaza explained that Meralco wanted to optimize the use of their idle assets given that the existing slump in property prices was preventing the company from realizing good values from the assets.

Elena R. Torrijos



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 24, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	64,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	48	45.5	46.5	1,158,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	32.5	33.5	171,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30	30	197,600
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	95	95	95	95	500
Philippine National Bank	24.25	24.25	24	24	21,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	15,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	75,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	20	20	20	20	84,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	6,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1465	1480	1465	1480	310
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1095	1080	1095	1,360
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	19.5	19.5	37,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.73	0.73	3,640,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	605	605	595	600	119,070
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	3,830,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	520	525	510	510	92,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	1,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	9.5	9.6	9.3	9.6	608,000
Manila Electric Co. B	14.5	14.75	14	14.5	2,144,100
Petron Corp.	1.98	2	1.94	1.98	2,388,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	2.9	2.9	1,331,000
Keppel Phils. Marine. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	300,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	57,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	640,800
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15	15	15	15	113,500
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	90,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	350,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54.5	53.5	54.5	804,000
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	63	120,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.95	5	4.95	5	174,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.65	4.7	2,936,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	13,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	3,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.7	1.62	1.7	49,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	19,320,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.25	12.75	1,596,800
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	65	65	65	65	77,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	306,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	880,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	12,930,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.3	0.35	1,200,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	5,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.04	0.04	3,900,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.36	30,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	8,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	210,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.66	1.76	29,000
Pryce Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	820,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	3,200
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	220,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.53	5,560,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	710,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	360,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.37	570,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20	19.25	19.5	242,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	2,231,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	130,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	270,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.21	4,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.04	0.98	1.02	9,998,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.15	0.15	0.125	0.135	2,110,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	2,040,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	60,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	378,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	13,780,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	114,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	80,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	620,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,010,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	49,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	4,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	2,600,000

DISCLOSURES

MAKATI Finance Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 18, 10 a.m. at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of July 18 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Metro Pacific Corp. were Manuel Pangilinan, Jose Ma. Lim, Edward Tortorici, Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr., Edward Go, Meliton Salazar, Enrique Esteban, Augusto Palisoc Jr., Daniel Lacson, E. Gemma Santos and Antonio Picazo.

* * *

SECURITY Bank Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.15 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of July 1 and will be payable on July 25.

* * *

ISLAND Information and Technology Inc. will engage in the trading of computer hardware and software as well as other related services while its supposed joint adventure with US-Asia Solutions and the establishment of Chinatrade.Com were withheld pending certain relevant resolutions.

* * *

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines Inc. disclosed the resignation of Glicerio Sicat as independent director and chair of the company's audit committee.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 24, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.862143	1.000000	53.279000
Japan	Yen	0.007285	0.008450	0.450200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432624	1.661700	88.533700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110551	0.128228	6.831900
Switzerland	Franc	0.648570	0.752276	40.080500
Canada	Dollar	0.633603	0.734916	39.155600
Singapore	Dollar	0.496340	0.575705	30.673000
Australia	Dollar	0.575914	0.668003	35.590500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.286974	2.652661	141.331100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.229899	0.266660	14.207400
Brunei	Dollar	0.494916	0.574053	30.585000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020729	0.024044	1.281000
UAE	Dirham	0.234731	0.272264	14.506000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.159900	61.798300
Argentina	Peso	0.307908	0.357143	19.028200
Brazil	REAL	0.299876	0.347826	18.531800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134659	0.156191	8.321700
India	Rupee	0.018552	0.021519	1.146500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.226910	0.263193	14.022700
Mexico	New Peso	0.082164	0.095302	5.077600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.504000	0.584590	31.146400
Norway	Kroner	0.122153	0.141685	7.548800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014913	0.017298	0.921600
South Africa	Rand	0.109582	0.127104	6.772000
Korea	Won	0.000724	0.000840	0.044800
Sweden	Kroner	0.110175	0.127792	6.808600
Syria	Pound	0.020528	0.023810	1.268600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025012	0.029011	1.545700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000541	0.000627	0.033400

Ho-ho for so-so hotel

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE DEBASED Lady by the Bay, the Manila Hotel, will finally have a chance even for a day to regain lost business and some cachet that it had long ceded to the Makati-based competition.

According to the grapevine, the partially state-owned hotel has received about 400 room bookings from the US Embassy for the one-day visit of US President George Bush in October.

With the financial fulcrum shifting to Makati and the traffic getting worse since the late '80s, the once premiere hotel has steady lost favor from businessmen, tour groups and even frequent individual travelers.

For years now, the Manila Hotel has been running at 20-30 percent average capacity like the rest of the bayside hotels, despite diving room rates to as low as P3,000 net per day (about $56), inclusive of breakfast.

Even the staff uniform, once the gold standard in the local industry, now reflects the hotel's tattered state, shabby and ill-fitting.

More travel promos

IN answer to the low-fare salvos fired by Northwest Airlines, Philippine Airlines on Monday filed a petition with the Civil Aeronautics Board to match Northwest's current promo.

A PAL spokesperson would not reveal the proposed fare structure, apparently in deference to ongoing CAB deliberations.

Northwest, in the meantime, has extended its low-fare promo to the United States due to overwhelming demand. Instead of last Saturday, the deadline for the reservation/purchase of the $753 economy, roundtrip fare to the West Coast ($833 to New York JFK, Washington D.C., and Chicago) has been extended to July 12.

The same restrictions remain. Travel out of Manila must be taken on or before August 31; the return leg is valid up to 90 days.

Still, even with the NW promo and the post-SARS offers from the regional airlines, PAL seems generally unperturbed by the foreign competition as far as its West Coast routes are concerned.

According to a PAL spokesperson, all their West Coast flights have been running full

COCKTALES / B4

Stocks down 2.04%

From page B1

of the market ahead of the FOMC decision," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

Although the domestic market has largely discounted an interest rate cut in the United States, Canizares said investors were split on the size of the expected rate cut to be decided by the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, held Tuesday and Wednesday.

At the same time, he noted that the market had risen sharply in recent weeks and so needed to take a breather. *AFP*

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₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	6.500%	6.750%	7.000%
₱5,000,001 and above	6.750%	7.000%	7.250%

DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.500%	1.500%	1.500%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.875%	1.875%	1.875%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.750%	2.750%	2.750%
$ 500,001 and above	3.125%	3.125%	3.125%

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June inflation seen at 2.7-3%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INFLATION rate in the 12 months to June is likely to hit 3 percent as against the 2.7 percent in May, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said.

Neri told reporters at the sidelines of a meeting at the finance department that he was expecting an uptick in the inflation rate to a range of 2.7-3 percent for this month.

"This is due to the slight depreciation of the peso, the lingering effects of typhoon Chedeng and the seasonal buying of school supplies in time for the June opening of classes," Neri said. He, however, noted that crude prices had remained stable during the period.

NERI

The strong demand for school supplies during the opening of classes usually puts pressure on consumer prices during the period.

In an interview yesterday, National Economic and Development Authority director for research Soccoro Zingapan said the impact of the June school opening had been factored in the lower end of the (inflation) projection for the month which was 2.7 percent. The possible rise in the inflation rate to as much as 3 percent, she said, would be due to the impact of weather disturbances and the weakening of the peso against the US dollar during the month.

"The (2.7-3 percent) range is due to the uncertainty of the impact of typhoon Chedeng and the floods during the first week of the month on food, mainly fruits, vegetables and fish," Zingapan said.

The National Statistics Office is set to release the inflation report for June on July 5.

For the whole year, the inflation rate is expected to remain benign, with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expecting an "over performance" as against the 4.5-5.5 percent target.

Inflation measures the movements in the prices of goods and services listed in the country's consumer price index.

During the first five months of the year, the inflation rate averaged at only 2.84 percent. The highest monthly rate so far this year was recorded in February at 3.1 percent.

Earlier reports quoted the Neda as saying it wanted this year's inflation target of 4.5-5.5 percent lowered to 3-3.5 percent.

Although the BSP was expecting the inflation rate to be much lower than the target, it was not supporting the proposed revision in the target as it sought more flexibility in its monetary management.

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Export slowdown temporary, says Seipi

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL electronics exporters have downplayed the reported slowdown in the importation and exportation of electronics products in April, saying they were confident that the industry could still hit the 10-percent growth forecast for the year.

The Semiconductors and Electronics Industries Philippines Inc. (Seipi) said the drop in the performance of the electronics sector was temporary and that a turnaround was expected to occur in the following months.

"We should not put too much concern on the April figure, since it will not significantly affect the sector's performance for the whole year," Jaffy Jurado of Seipi said in an interview.

Electronics imports dropped to 20.8 percent in April to $1.41 billion from $1.779 billion in the same period last year. Seipi said the slowdown was due to the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak and the US-Iraq war, which dampened global consumer demand.

Due to low global demand, electronic data processing products, which account for 23 percent of the country's total electronics exports, posted a 12.19-percent decline. Demand for wireless products also recorded an 11-percent drop, said Seipi.

Seipi said it was expecting a recovery this year and that it was projecting an 11-28 percent growth next year.

The export sector, through the Philippine Exporters Confederation, expressed optimism that the slowdown in the early part of the year would not last long.

Philexport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said in a briefing that the industry was sticking to the 8- to 10-percent export growth projection for the year. He added that the slowdown in April would not have much bearing on the sector's full-year performance.

Loan facility for public transport co-ops readied

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications, through attached agency Office of Transport Cooperatives (OTC), is providing public transport cooperatives as much as P2.5 million in loan for the acquisition of brand-new vehicles.

Under the OTC's Sasakyan Inilaan para sa Kalakal Agrikultura at Pasahero (Sikap) project, the Land Bank of the Philippines has earmarked P2.5 million for each transport cooperative or P500,000 for each public transport vehicle per driver.

The project aims to give driver-members of cooperatives the opportunity to own the vehicle they are driving, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a statement.

Another loan facility has also been set up under the Koop Paradahan, Pook Sakayan project, which earmarks P5 million for cooperatives wanting to set up their own terminals.

Aside from the funding programs, the OTC is also spearheading a Pabahay program aimed at alleviating the country's housing problems.

Globe named among Asia's best GSM carriers

GLOBE Telecom was named the third-best Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) carrier in the Asian region in the recently concluded Telecom Asia Awards 2003.

The other winners in this category were Maxis of Malaysia, No. 1; Globe major stakeholder Singapore Telecom, No. 2, and China Mobile, which ranked No. 4.

The only Philippine company among the top four placers in this category, Globe scored high in terms of financial performance, corporate governance and market leadership.

The winners were selected by a seven-member panel. The judging methodology used was a mix of both quantitative metrics, comparing revenue expenditure performance, as well as qualitative assessments of market leaderships and levels of innovation.

Globe Telecom president and CEO Gerardo Ablaza Jr. was named finalist in the Best Telecom CEO category. Ablaza joins the ranks of other leading telecom CEOs in Asia Pacific cited in the Telecom Asia Awards 2003 such as Chris Anderson of Optus, Tadashi Odonera of KDDI, Wang Xiaochu of China Mobile, Lee Hsien Yang of SingTel and Theresa Gattung of Telecom NZ.

DOE says rate hike a must

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy recently said an increase in power rates by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) to "reflect the true cost of electricity" could help prevent a looming power crisis in Cebu City.

A major power shortage may hit the city if independent power producer (IPP) Cebu Private Power Corp. (CPPC) is forced to shutdown on July 25 if no solution is reached to address its continuing losses due to Napocor's artificial rates for the Visayas grid.

CPPC supplies close to 30 percent of the requirement of Cebu City's power distributor Visayan Electric Co. (Veco) at a price pegged at 2 percent below Napocor's rate. The firm told the Cebu City Council that the cap on Napocor's fuel and purchased power cost adjustment (FPCA) imposed by the government last year effectively slashed its selling price by 20 percent leading to a substantial reduction in its revenues amid rising fuel costs.

According to DOE Assistant Secretary Lasse Holopainen, the adoption of the time-of-use (TOU) mechanism would allow CPPC to adjust automatically its selling price to Veco and benefit Cebu City in the long run. He said CPPC's contract with Veco was a "reference problem" on Napocor rates.

Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) have asked the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for the approval of TOU rates which Holopainen said "would reflect the true cost of electricity."

Cocktales

From page B3

since December, thanks to the SARS scare and PAL offering the fastest, non-stop route between Manila and California.

The flag carrier even had to mount extra flights for its Vancouver and Los Angeles routes despite the winter season. "It's as if there is no longer a low season," the spokesperson said.

Short takes

- THE HARDLY used former Jai Alai fronton in Harrison Plaza, controlled by Henry "Big Boy" Sy Jr. and partners, has been converted into a first-class, air-conditioned cockpit arena.
- A LITTLE-KNOWN Filipino ad agency, BCD-Pinpoint Direct Marketing, has won a bronze Cannes Lions award in the just-concluded annual international competition held in the French Riviera resort.

Naturally, BCD-Pinpoint founder/chair Jose Richard Soriano is ecstatic at becoming the first Filipino agency to break into the charmed circle.

It was BCD-Pinpoint's fundraising campaign work for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society that clinched the coveted award.

Heard through the grapevine

PGA Cars says San Miguel vice chair Ramon Ang has not acquired any Porsche Cayenne as was reported in this space Monday.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't to scrap, defer slow-moving projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

BONCODIN

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management will present today in Malacañang a blueprint to rationalize the government's official development assistance (ODA) portfolio.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the department had completed its review of the ODA portfolio and was ready to recommend which projects to cancel or defer.

She said the list would be presented for approval by the executive committee of the National Economic and Development Authority, chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Essentially, it's to clean up the portfolio, determine which are fast moving and which are not; and do something about accelerating those foreign-assisted projects (FAPs) that are still important to us," Boncodin said.

Among the projects cited by the government as slow moving are the $150-million Pasig River Rehabilitation and the $200-million Metro Manila Clean Air programs, both under ODA funding from the Asian Development Bank.

The ADB has earlier criticized the slow utilization of ODA funds by the government.

Boncodin said the list of projects to be scrapped, deferred or accelerated would be announced after today's meeting.

Among the programs that the government earlier identified for cancellation were the Banking Sector Reform and the Grain Sector Development programs.

"It's a rationalization program we undertook at the start of the year," she said.

The cleaning up of the ODA portfolio will spare the government from unnecessary expenditures arising from penalties caused by the slow moving projects. It shall also maximize counterpart government funds that are being earmarked for ODA projects.

EOYP AGREEMENT SIGNED
Trade Secretary Mar Roxas (center) and SGV Foundation president Cesar V. Purisima (second from left) led the recent signing of the memorandum of agreement for the Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines (EOYP) project. Other signatories to the MOA are Philippine Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung, Bankers Association of the Philippines president Cesar Virata and UP Diliman Chancellor Emerlinda Roman.

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Sarah presents the latest in interactive marketing, direct response advertising, direct mail, mobile and MMS advertising in Japan and the region.

DICKIE SORIANO,
Founder & CEO BCD Pinpoint
Dickie shares how to integrate direct mail, direct response ads and the new media into your direct-to-consumer or business-to-business marketing campaigns – and get better results.

MIMMIE ONG, **TinCan Mobile Solutions**
Mimmie shows some exciting new case studies that tell you how to take advantage of the MMS and SMS explosion and make your brand mobile.

LISA GOKONGWEI, **President & Founder, Summit Media Group**
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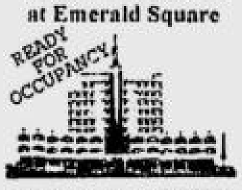

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2 DERMA FOREIGN EMPLYER GOOD SALARY 7133259/7150325

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HOUSE MAID 834-5973

MAID YAYA LABA 7462906

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MONEY PAWNSHOP
A. Mercado St. Sto. Rosario City of Sn Fdo Pampanga - will auction all expired loans on July 2, 2003 at 10am - D. Yap Auctioneers.

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop Makati City
Auction Sale on **July 7, 2003** all unredeemed pledges during the month of February 1-28, 2003. Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am, Damus Pawnshop-12:30pm; Nuestra Main -1:30pm; Nuestra Br IX 3:00pm.
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA
Will have its auction sale on **July 8, 2003**. All unredeemed pledges during the month of February 1-28, 2003. Diajade Main-8:30am; Diajade Br. I-10:30am; Diajade Br. II-11:30am. - Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **WILLIAM E. BEALS** has been extrajudicially settled by sole heir Estrella B. Beals as per Doc.#304, Page #61, Book #1, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Francisco Malate Jr. of Paranaque City.
(PDI-June 18, 25 & July 2, 2003)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

VIDEOKE P25T 09173312287

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK

NOTICE

The Board of Directors of Export And Industry Bank, Inc. has set the date of the Bank's 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting on September 12, 2003.

The record date fixed is August 21, 2003.

Written nominations for candidates to the Board of Directors to be elected during said annual meeting should be submitted not later than ***5:00 P.M., July 11, 2003 (Friday)***, to the Office of the Corporate Secretary, Export And Industry Bank, Inc., 37/F ExportBank Plaza, Don Chino Roces Ave. corner ExportBank Drive, Makati City.

(Sgd.) **RAMON F. AVIADO, JR.**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – June 25, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The **National Housing Authority** is inviting ***Offers to Purchase*** by way of sealed bids a **5,105.0 square meter commercial property** located along Lapu-lapu Avenue and corners Ayungin and Babanse Streets, Dagat-dagatan Development Project on an ***"As Is - Where Is"*** basis. Title of the property is registered under the name of the ***National Housing Authority***. Base price is **PhP12,000.00** per square meter.

Payment schemes for the above cited property are ***cash, modified cash*** (6 equal installments without interest) and ***installment*** for a maximum period of ***ten (10) years*** with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of ***PhP200.00*** from the ***Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)***, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Quezon City. For inquiry, please call ***Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms. Neri A. Subido*** at the following Tel. Nos. ***CIED: (02) 923-0390, (02) 928-4561 local 302 & 303***.

SCHEDULE

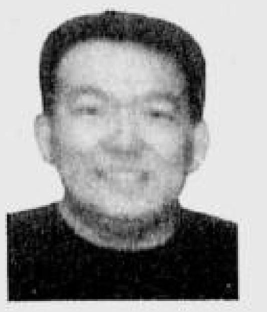
A.	**Submission of Pre-Qualifications Requirements**	**June 23 to July 2, 2003, office hours CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Main Bldg. Elliptical Road, Quezon City**
B.	**Pre-Bid Conference**	**June 30, 2003, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg.**
C.	**Submission of Sealed Bids**	**July 4, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Operations Center, 3rd Floor**
D.	**Opening of Sealed Bids**	**July 4, 2003, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor**

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager/Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI - June 21 & 25, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



BENNIE D. GO whose picture appears above, the owner of BDG Trading with known addresses in Jade St., Bermuda Subdivision, Bacoor Cavite; KIMWA Compd., Purok 12, Baloy, Tablon, Cagayan de Oro City; and Purok 15, Blk. 2, Panacan Relocation, Davao City, has a Standing Warrant of Arrest for Eight (8) Counts for Violation of B.P. 22 before Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila, Branch 16.

A reward will be given to anyone with information leading to the arrest of the above person. You may call Atty. Teresita C. Marbibi at Tel. Nos. (02) 241-6347, (02) 241-6342. All information shall be kept in full confidentiality.

(PDI - June 25, 2003)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1 SAN JUAN, LA UNION
Tel. No. (072) 242-5909/10 Fax (072) 242-5908

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** Region 1, through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the Repair Roof replacement of Warehouse No. 2 at Barangay Carmay, Rosales, Pangasinan. Scope of works for the said repair works shall not be limited to the following:

1. Dismantling/piling of damaged roofings, flashing, gutters, ridge roll, and downspout, etc.
2. Chipping and removal of existing steel casement windows;
3. Installation of new pre-painted ordinary corr. roofings sheet, skylights, flashing gutter, ridge roll;
4. Installation of 6" PVC Pipe for center gutter and 4" PVC for front and side elevations;
5. Repair of continuous ridge ventilation;
6. Conversion of steel Casement windows into concrete louver windows with screen on both sides on aluminum frame (Note "6-units existing steel casement window to be replaced by 6" chb);
7. Repair and conversion of three (3) units steel doors to swing steel folded door;
8. Provision of three (3) units screen doors;
9. Repainting of all steel structures (columns, trusses, rafters, purlins, etc.) one (1) coat red oxide and two (2) coats aluminum
10. Repainting of all concrete structures two (2) coat (one coat flat, one coat emi-gloss);
11. Repair and rewiring of electrical system
12. Repair of drainage system
13. Cleaning and clearing of site

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

Issuance of RES Form	**July 1-2, 2003**	(8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Submission of Accomplished RES Form	**July 15-16, 2003**	(8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Contractors	**July 30, 2003**	(8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Pre-Bidding Conference	**August 06, 2003**	(10:00 a.m.)
Submission and Opening of Bids	**August 20, 2003**	(10:00 a.m.)

Contractor's Category LIMITED TO MEDIUM "A" for Building and Industrial Plant

Appropriated Budget P5,500,000.00

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated Bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and E.O. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR), as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form) may be secured and submitted at NFA-RPBAC Secretariat 2nd Floor, Regional Office, San Juan La Union upon presentation of Letter of Intent, updated PCAB/LAC License (Original) and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Plans and Specifications and Bidding documents, shall be issued to Eligible contractors/bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee P2,000.00.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect or formality, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIANO Q. MOLINA**
Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, NFA-RPBAC

(PDI - June 18 & 25, 2003)

Trans Co

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-07A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 16, 2003; 2:00 P.M.			
A1	1 SET	BATTERY LOAD UNIT	3PSMDS-03-026

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on July 1, 2003, 10:00 AM at SLT Bidding Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting June 18, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI – June 25, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Central Office Bids & Awards Committee
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz Manila 1003
Trunk Line: 743-8301 local 1150-1151; Telefax: 711-6061
Website: www.doh.gov.ph

June 16, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY, SHORTLISTING AND TO BID FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Department of Health (DOH) invites eligible firms duly registered with the DTI/SEC to participate in a public bidding for the selection of Internet Service Providers (ISP) for the DOH, San Lazaro Compound.

The requirements for eligibility and shortlisting the ISPs may be obtained from the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Secretariat, Procurement Division 2/F Building 26 from June 19 to 30, or may be downloaded from the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph). ISPs which wish to offer their services must submit an official Letter of Intent together with the required eligibility/shortlisting requirements to the DOH through the COBAC Secretariat or electronically, not later than June 30, 2003.

For shortlisted ISPs, a complete set of bid documents may be purchased from the COBAC Secretariat/Procurement Division upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from July 7 to July 11, 2003, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. The **Pre-Bid Conference** is on July 9, 2003 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m., Health Human Resource Development Bureau (HHRDB) Conference Room 3rd Floor, Building 12-A, San Lazaro Compound Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila and the deadline for the **Submission and Opening of Bids** is on July 18, 2003 (Friday) at 9:00 a.m. at the HHRDB Conference Room.

The Approved Budget for Contract is P2,000,000.00 per year.

DOH reserves the right to waive any abnormality in the responses to the eligibility and shortlisting requirements and to this invitation. DOH further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, annul the bidding process, declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairman, COBAC

(PDI – June 18 & 25, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF THE 50 MLD WAWA RIVER PROJECT

The existing water supply systems within San Mateo and Rodriguez (Montalban), both in the province of Rizal are supplied from deep wells operated by Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWCI) and from surface water provided by Balara. However, growing water demand in the area is diffucult to cover from existing sources and deep wells render inadequate yield and are costly to operate. Thus, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in cooperation with MWCI, is considering providing water to the area from existing Wawa Dam (the Project).

The Project will cmprise the renovation of the dam including intake structures, removal of silt from the reservoir, construction of a new transport pipeline and use of a packaged water treatment plant. The water treatment plant will be located close to the dam on a site already owned by MWSS, which has the right of way for the new pipeline. The plant's mechanical and electrical equipment has been provided under a previous project and is currently storerd in a warehouse.

MWSS secured a Technical assistance Loan from ADB to finance the consultancy services of the project. The consultancy services needed shall cover the preparation of Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design of the Project based on the scope of services stated in the Terms of Reference (TOR), a copy of which can be secured at the address stated below.

MWSS therefore is inviting Foreign and Local consultancy firms to submit their request for pre-qualification together with their company profile and organizational structure which will provide information regarding their field of expertise and specialization and the experiences of key personnel who will be assigned to undertake the required consultancy services. On the basis of the submissions, MWSS will shortlist the consultancy firms.

Consultants who expressed their desire to offer their services can obtain the pre-qualification statement/forms and submit the same in five (5) sets on or before 5:00 p.m. of **July 18, 2003** to the address stated below. Late submission will not be entertained.

Engineering and Project Management Department
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax No. (632) 9222568

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - June 20, 25 & 29, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT of the proposed PINATUBO HAZARD URGENT MITIGATION PROJECT; FLOOD CONTROL WORKS ON THE PASAC-DELTA AREA INCLUDING PORAC-GUMAIN RIVER (PHUMP-PHASE III) AND THIRD RIVER CHANNEL (PHUMP-PHASE IV) of

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH)
to be located in PAMPANGA

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their options regarding the implementation of the FLOOD CONTROL WORKS ON THE PASAC-DELTA AREA INCLUDING PORAC-GUMAIN RIVER (PHASE III) and THIRD RIVER CHANNEL (PHASE IV), to attend a Public Hearing on the following schedule:

Cluster	Parties from the following Municipalities	Schedule	Venue
1	Lubao, Guagua, Sasmuan, Floridablanca, Sta. Rita & Bacolor	July 5, 2003 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon	Pineda Sports Complex, Lubao, Pampanga
2	City of San Fernando, Mexico, Sto. Tomas San Luis & Sta. Ana		
3	Minalin, Macabebe & Masantol	July 6, 2003 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon	Macabebe Gymnasium, Patio Poblacion, Macabebe, Pampanga

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned Project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should register in person or by mail with the EMB Central Office at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City c/o Mr. Jonas Moranilla, or with PENRO/CENRO/(City of San Fernando) before the start of the Public Hearing.

Individuals and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB/PENRO/CENRO on or before July 3, 2003. EIS documents at the EMB shall be open to all interested individuals/groups for review.

For more details, plese call the EIA Division of EMB Central Office through Mr. Jonas Moranilla at telephone nos. 920-2240 (telefax) or 920-2241.

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

CONTRACT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LRT LINE 1 SYSTEM

Approved Budget for the Contract from Corporate Funds:
PhP 410,400,000.00
Contract Duration: Two (2) Years

Bid Documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila during regular office hours on **July 2-4, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND (P15,000.00) PESOS**. Interested Bidders which have purchased the Bid Documents in March 2003 are exempted from said payment.

Site inspection will be held in the morning of **July 8, 2003**. For purposes of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference shall be held on **July 8, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the above address. Deadline for the submission of documents for eligibility/prequalification shall be on **July 16, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids from eligible/prequalified Bidders not later than 2:00 p.m., **August 1, 2003** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

The determination of eligibility shall be based on the non-discretionary "Pass-Fail" criteria concerning requirements on experience, personnel capability, financial capacity, as well as formality and completeness of submitted documents.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the Bidder may incur in the preparation of its bid, and will entertain only such bid established to be most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) **EVANGELINE M. RAZON**
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 25 & July 3, 2003)

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Day before publication

The Provincial Government and the people of North Cotabato announce with deep sorrow the demise of former

Governor ROSARIO "CHAR" P. DIAZ, MD

Her remains lie at the
Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.
Plans for interment services will be announced later.

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Governor

JESUS N. SACDALAN
Vice-Governor

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ABC President

JOY MARIE P. GARCIA
SK Prov'l. Fed. President

We request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

***Governor Char** will be deeply missed by the people of Cotabato whom she served with sincere dedication.*

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, Even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
On the Seventh Death Anniversary of

JUDGE MANUEL K. GRUBA

Formerly of the Court of Tax Appeals

who passed on to Eternal Life
on June 26, 1996

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered
at the following Churches:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		
JUNE 25, 2003	**Franciscan Monastery** 1400 Quincy Street, N.E. Washington D.C. 20017	All Masses
	Cathedral of St. Mary of Assumption San Francisco	6:45 a.m. 8:00 a.m.
PHILIPPINES		
JUNE 26, 2003	**Our Lady of Lourdes Church** Quezon City	All Masses
	Santuario de San Jose San Juan	All Masses
	Mary the Queen Parish San Juan	7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
	Santo Domingo Church Quezon City	7:15 a.m. 12:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
	Carmel Shrine Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
	St. Jude Catholic Church San Miguel, Manila	6:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
	Nstra. Sra. Del Perpetual Socorro Parish 2042 Calamba, Manila	6:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
	Our Lady of La Consolation Church Mira Nila Homes, Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
	Community of the Agustinian Missionary of the Philippines	daily community prayer for nine days June 17-Aug. 26

Our Beloved

NICOLAS J. DIMAANO

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 23, 2003
at the age of 83.

His loving wife **EUGENIA** (†); children **BOY** (†), **AMOR; NENE & BONNIE TORRES; AZON & MEL** (†) **TABORA, EFREN & WILMA** (†) **DIMAANO, MA. ELSIE DIMAANO; DANTE & GIRL DIMAANO**; grandchildren **BENJIE** and **BERNIE; BYRON** and **GARY; ROBERT, OLIVE, PATTY, INNA** and **EJ; NICO, TONI, NIKKI** and **JOSEPH**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Filipinas Funeral Homes Hilltop, Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
SEGUNDINO G. GALSIM	JUNE 25	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	La Funeraria Oro Quezon Avenue Bo. San Isidro Angono, Rizal

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E-mail address sales@holygardens.com

Atty. TRIFON G. ESPIRITU
of ATENEO COLLEGE of LAW Class 1952

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on 21 June 2003 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, sister, brother and relatives.

His remains lie in state at St. Michael's Church, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be today, 25 June 2003 at Bacoor Municipal Cemetery after the 8:00 Mass.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

Our Beloved

Rosario Pascual Diaz, M.D.

- UST College of Medicine, 1963
- Chairperson of the Board, Rural Bank of Midsayap, Inc.
- President/Chairman, Amado Diaz Development Foundation, Inc.
- Governor, Province of Cotabato 1986-1998
- Member National Board, Boy.Scout of the Philippines

Peacefully joined her Creator on 23 June 2003
at the age of 63.

Her sister **Azucena Diaz Villanueva**; brother **Manuel**; brother-in-law **Nestor J. Villanueva**; nieces **Gina V. Panuncialman, Felicidad V. Morente, Aida V. Lui, Maria Lourdes V. Kong**; nephews-in-law **Mac Panuncialman, Jaime Morente, Kevin Lui, Robert Kong**; grandnieces and nephews **Julien, Tricia, Romina, Jimbo, Francis, Jon-jon, Ryan, Eric, Ally, Ian** and other relatives request the reader to remember her in their prayers.

She lies in state at Holy Trinity Chapel, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment to be announced later.
In lieu of flowers, donations to the
Amado Diaz Development Foundation, Inc.
will be appreciated.

"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. He leads me beside restful waters, He refreshes my soul…" *Psalm 23:1*

Sir Knight CARLOS A. BRIONES

of Tarlac City

Knights of Columbus, San Sebastian Council 3655,
Bank of the Philippine Islands, Tarlac City
Spectrum Communications, Tarlac Sigma Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 21, 2003 at the age of 51.
(March 18, 1952 – June 21, 2003)

His remains lie in state at their family residence at 9 P. Burgos St., Tarlac City.

He is survived by his loving wife **Victoria Alvaro**; children **Edward Damaso "Boyet"** and **Ann Marie**; mother **Pilar Austria Briones**; brother **Diosdado "Jojo" Briones**; sisters **Alicia** and **Elma Socorro**; sisters-in-law **Lourdes Santos, Juliana Alvaro, Gregoria A. delos Santos, Emerenciana A. Palarca**; brothers-in-law **Amado Alvaro, Arturo Alarilla** and **Raymundo Sicam, Jr.**, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at the Tarlac Catholic Cemetery after the 8:30 Mass at his ancestral home at 9 P. Burgos St., Tarlac City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARIA LOURDES PASION YUZON

(Auntie Luding)

who peacefully passed away in the Grace of the Lord
on June 13, 2003

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent condolences, flowers, donations and food, attended the funeral rites, helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

Her children **Ma. Luz (†) & Miguel J. Lagman, Ma. Lourdes & Vicente A. Cruz, Jr. (†), Belen & Tony M. Fran (†), Antonio P. Yuzon (†), Bert & Thelma Yuzon, Rel & Marilu Yuzon, Johnny & Elsa Yuzon** and **Pat & Judy Yuzon**.

In Loving Memory of

MSGR. JOSE A. SILVERIO

(July 28, 1934 - June 7, 2003)

We, the Silverio family – brothers and sisters:
Inday Terry, Golem, Boy, Bitoy, Ricky, G.V., Peewee,
and Rosalina (Nana) Sarrosa,
In-laws, Uncles, Aunts, Nephews, Nieces
and Friends

wish to thank you all for your prayers and support
during our time of great loss.

We design
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Linda Gascon Villanos vda. de Jimenez

Former Teacher of Moncada, Tarlac Elementary School
Retired Administrative Officer COA NEA
Rotary Club Prima Vida
President CEO/ LIN-NESS Natural Herbal Enterprises
Scientist, Researcher Inventor LIN-NESS Herbal Products
Awardee, Outstanding Inventor of Herbal Medicine

Linda, wife to **NESTOR A. JIMENEZ, SR. (†)**, daughter to **LEONCIO VILLANOS (†)** and **FAUSTA GASCON GARLIT (†)**.

Her loving children and children-in-law **JAIME & BELINDA, JUN & GINA, NIDA & EDGAR, ANNALIZA, GRACE & MILAN, PAULINE & ROMMEL, LEAH & PITZ** and grandchildren **JENNY, ABUNDIO, PATRICIA, JUSTIN, JAY-R, PAOLO, GIAN, RAIN** and **RILEY**, sister to **JOVEN** and **ETTA, OSCAR (†)** and **NAMING, TEDDY** and **JULIET, ROGER (†)** and **INGGA, TESS** and **VEN, RUDY** and **CORA**, and relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment schedule will be announced later.

In Loving Memory
On the First Death Anniversary of our beloved

JUANITA "Nitz" STA. TERESA BENZON

(June 24, 1947 – June 25, 2002)

Her loving husband **Atty. Marlo A. Benzon**; children **Donna & Paul, Jenny, Marlon, Michelle**; grandchildren **Deirdre & Pat**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Masses will be offered in her honor today, June 25, 2003 at the following Catholic churches:

In Zamboanga City:	
Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Concepcion	6:00 AM
Mt. Carmel (Ayala)	6:00 AM
Our Lady of the Purification Church (Sta. Maria)	6:00 AM
In Quezon City:	
St. Joseph Parish Church (Balintawak)	6:00 AM
TBC II Chapel (Balonbato)	6:30 PM
In Manila:	
Sta. Cruz Parish Church (Sta. Cruz)	6:00 PM
Quiapo Church	5:00 PM
Groto de Antipolo (Sampaloc)	7:30 PM

Our Beloved Mother

GLICERIA VISTA MANSILLA

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on June 23, 2003 at the age of 78.

Her loving husband **Napoleon** (†); children **Rene** (†), **Nanette, Leo, Dario, Eloisa, Dinah, Glyna Joy, Nap, Jr.**; brother, sister, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Bernadette Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 28, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park. Interment will immediately follow after the Mass.

"…absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

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.BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District is inviting interested well drilling contractors with PCAB License having a specialty in well drilling to submit their respective pre-qualification statements (PRE-C) for the drilling of various production wells at various places in Baguio City.

Interested contractors may obtain pre-qualification forms at a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 from the PBAC-Secretariat, BWD Office, Utility Road, Baguio City.

Issuance of Pre-C Forms		June 30, 2003
Deadline of submission of Pre-C	:	July 4, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents		July 21-23, 2003
Deadline for Submission of Bids	:	July 24, 2003
Opening of Bids	:	July 31, 2003

BWD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and accept bids most advantageous to the District

BWD PBAC-Projects

(PDI - June 23, 24 & 25, 2003)

CALL CENTER SEMINAR

Call the USA.net teamed up with the Contact Federation of the Phil. (CFP) in a seminar titled 'The Business Power of Call Centers' slated on July 24, 2003 at the SGV Hall, 4th Floor of Acceed in Makati City. The one-day power-packed seminar will bring in experts in the contact center industry to discuss details on: why set up contact centers, the how to, including the technical and operations aspects, HR management, marketing, maintaining and expansion of contact centers. Shown are (seated) Olivia Altarejos, president of Call the USA.net, and Bong Borja, chair of CFP, (standing left) Nina Lim, GM of Global 9 Inc. and Lui Mauban, event director. For inquiries, call the secretariat at 827-7008 or 788-0843 or 0922-312-5320. The seminar is co-presented by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Cisco and Microdata.

CASCADE

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

ERP-CASCADE is presently seeking **expressions of interest**
from companies/groups in the context of its

TRAINING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS: UPLAND FEEDER ROADS CONSTRUCTION

This contract will consist in the management and implementation of a comprehensive training program for 19 municipalities, situated in Nueva Vizcaya, Benguet and Nueva Ecija, on the construction and maintenance of upland farm-to-market roads. This training program will include:

- ***Technical Module*** *(5 sub-modules): survey, design, technical specifications and cost evaluation of road rehabilitation projects*
- ***Contract Management Module***
- ***Decision-Makers Module***

The overall contract length is estimated to nine (9) months and has a budget ceiling of €135,000. It is opened to local consulting companies or groups with specialization in engineering training.

All interested companies are required to submit an Expression of Interest (BOI), accompanied by a company profile, by latest 07 July 2003 at the following address:

Project Co-Directors: ERP-CASCADE
Maharlika Highway, Bonfal West, Bayombong, 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
Email: cascade erp@yahoo.co.uk (Fax: 078-3053611)

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture
funded by the Philippines Government and the European Commission

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NOTICE AND WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that our client, ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL (COMPAGNIE GENERALE D'OPTIQUE) S.A. of France, one of the world's leading manufacturers of optical apparatus and equipment, including spectacle glasses; sunglasses; various kinds of ophthalmic lenses; protective goggles and glasses; spectacle cases; equipment for opticians and ophthalmologists; software for remote ordering of goods and services relating to ophthalmic optics, sales promotion software; and software for professional use in the ophthalmic optics sector; is the legitimate owner and prior commercial user of its internationally famous trademarks **ESSILOR**, **VARILUX** and **e (logo)** (reproduced below) which it has used and is continuously using on its said various manufactured products and articles all over the world, including here in the Philippines where it has used said trademarks for more than a decade. Representation of these trademarks are shown below:

ESSILOR **VARILUX**

It has been brought to the attention of our client that some persons and entities are importing, selling, distributing, and dealing in counterfeit products which are identical or similar to our client's aforesaid products and unlawfully using its above depicted **ESSILOR**, **VARILUX** and **e (logo)** trademarks. Said unauthorized use by any person or entity of these trademarks or any colourable imitation thereof constitutes infringement and unfair competition for which the parties involved may be held criminally and civilly liable.

WARNING IS THEREFORE GIVEN to any person or entity involved in the unlawful importation, sale, distribution or dealing of counterfeit products, using our client's aforesaid trademarks, and to anyone who abets, assists or cooperates in any way in said unlawful acts and practices to immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from pursuing such fraudulent, unscrupulous, unlawful and illegal acts. Otherwise, we shall take all available legal actions and remedies to the fullest extent of the law to protect the rights and interest of our client.

MANUEL C. CASES, JR. & ASSOCIATES
Counsel for ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL
(COMPAGNIE GENERALE D'OPTIQUE) S.A.
7th Floor, Metropolitan Terraces Condominium,
Metropolitan Avenue, corner Sacred Heart St.,
1203 Makati City

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P. O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4407; Fax No. (632) 636-2567
Email: adjusupbekova@adb.org or slsanga@adb.org

INVITATION FOR BIDS

For Contract No. ADB/OAS-2003/034

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, wishes to receive bids from qualified bidders for the provision of Horizontal Cabling Replacement Project at the ADB Headquarters Office.

2. The Contractor shall provide ADB with the most reliable and efficient migration strategy, decommissioning of STP cables and installation, testing, commissioning of new cables and final cut over including the deployment of fully trained personnel, transportation, equipment and supervision in accordance with the policies, standards and procedures established by ADB.

3. The successful bidder will be contracted for a period of **16 months** from the commencement date of the contract, extendible subject to mutual consent.

4. To be qualified for the bidding, the bidder **MUST**.
   - I. Have independent legal existence as a validly registered company, or a joint venture partnership (under joint and several liability), with at least five (5) years and above experience in Structured Cabling System business particularly in migration of existing cabling to new infrastructure, and other related services.
   - II. Have basic financial requirement with assets not less than US$1.5 million or with acceptable financial support (bidders to provide documentation of proof partnership).
   - III. Have Global and/or Regional Partners that will provide financial and resource assistance for this project.
   - IV. Have past experience in similar migration project with an equivalent of 3,000 nodes required, but preferably close to 10,000 nodes.
   - V. Have experience in installing and commissioning Category 6 Structured Cabling System with at least five reference sites.
   - VI. Be a certified installer for the various product(s) proposed for the installation
   - VII. Provide details, quantity and type of Owned cable testing equipment and tools for cable installation
   - VIII. Have membership to BICSi/BICSP and preferably with RCDD Engineer;

     (**BICSI**: Building Industry Consulting Service International/**BICSP**: Building Industry Consulting Service Philippines/**RCDD**: Registered Communications Distribution Designer);

5. Bid documents and the corresponding instructions may be obtained from the office of the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4221N, at the above address, **from 26 June to 2 July 2003** on any working day (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.).

6. Two copies (marked "ORIGINAL" AND "COPY") of the bid should be submitted each in a sealed envelope marked **"Provision of ADB Horizontal Cabling Replacement Project, Contract No. ADB/OAS-2003/034"** addressed to **"Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services,"** and should reach ADB **not later than 10:00 a.m. on 17 July 2003**.

7. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of bid shall be borne solely by the bidder.

Chairman
Procurement Committee for Services
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – June 24 & 25, 2003)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP), hereinafter called "the Government" through the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) hereinafter called "the Employer", invites interested local and foreign contractors to apply for Eligibility and Prequalification and if prequalified to bid for the Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of the Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project – Baguio City Economic Zone.
2. This is the second invitation to Prequalify/Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the SEZEMP-Baguio City STP Construction Project. The Project description is still the same particularly.

   Budgetary Project Cost : P95M
   Source of Fund : GOP (PEZA)
   Construction Period : 365 Calendar Days
   Tentative Starting Date : October, 2003

   SCOPE OF WORK
   - a. Construction of New Sewage Treatment Plant: (Aerated Lagoon System – 4,700 cu.m./day) to include the construction of facilities such as Grit Chamber, Settling Tank, Chlorination Chamber, Office/Laboratory Building, Equipment House, and Guard House.
   - b. Construction of New Sewer Collection System (Combination of gravity lines and pressure force lines, Approx 1,970 Lm) including the construction of One (1) Lift Station.
   - c. Provision of Site Works and Landscaping.
3. The application for pre-qualification is open to bona fide qualified contractor from all countries and areas. Foreign Contractor Applicants should be licensed in their own country/area, or has filed an application for Special License at PCAB, and must satisfy the requirements of EO 40, i.e. forming themselves into joint venture with local contractor; and Local Contractor Applicants must be holding PCAB "AAA" License & Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for Sewerage or Sewage System and/or Water Treatment Plant and System.
4. Contractors forming themselves into a Joint Venture shall comply with the provisions for the procurement of civil works under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, series of 2001 (EO 40).
5. In view of the size of the project and relative advanced construction and technology required, eligible contractors shall have an adequate expertise and experience in the similar projects. The Applicant must meet the following minimum requirement.
   - The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices completed and similar to the contract to be bid must be at east fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid
   - Successful experience in the execution of at least three (3) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having a capacity of at least 1,000 cu.m. per day or at least one (1) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having the capacity of more than 4,000 cu.m. per day comparable to the proposed project within the last ten (10) years.
   - The prospective Applicant's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on his net working capital must be at least equal to the estimated budget for the contract.
6. Pre-qualification Document may be procured upon submission of the following:

   Letter of Intent, Authorization to Purchase Document, Certified True Copy of the Contractor's License and Certificate of Registration and Classification (for Local Contractor); and license in their own country/area (for Foreign Contractors).
7. Prequalification document will be available for issuance starting June 23, 2003 at the PEZA-SEZEMP Office c/o BAC Secretariat, 3/F Almeda Building, Roxas Blvd., cor. San Luis St., Pasay City, upon payment of non-refundable amount of P3,000.00. The deadline for submission of accomplished Pre-qualification Documents in sealed envelope (1-original & 5-copies) shall be on or before July 07, 2003, not later than 5:00 PM at the same venue mentioned above.
8. PEZA shall notify the Applicants regarding the results of the Pre-qualification evaluation on or about July 29, 2003. The plans and Bid Documents shall be issued by PEZA not later than July 29, 2003, upon payment by the pre-qualified contractor's of non-refundable amount of P30,000.00.
9. The tentative schedule of the Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on August 15 and August 22, 2003, respectively. Moreover, the date of bidding shall be on September 12, 2003; wherein the dropping and opening of bids shall be held at same venue as stated above at 10:00 AM.
10. All particulars relative to the procurement of the contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. 40, series 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulation.
11. PEZA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein, and accepts the offer most advantageous to the government.

BAC-Chairman
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

(PDI – June 18 & 25, 2003)

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Real Living exhibit features charming ideas for your home

YOUNG, affluent and educated professionals are the new breed of homeowners in the Philippines today. They want their homes to reflect their personalities and upwardly-mobile lifestyles without bleeding their bank accounts dry.

Real Living is the perfect magazine for this niche market. A home magazine with a real-world mission: live well, spend smart, Real Living will be packed with the best ideas in home décor, amenities, entertaining and helpful information on maintenance and repair and ways to finance your dream house.

In its effort to show people that living well need not be expensive, Real Living is holding a mini-exhibit at Home Zone on the third level of Glorietta 4 from June 16 to July 20, where charming yet cost-effective ideas for your home will be on display. Blims Fine Furniture, Dimensione and Handyman will also showcase Real Living displays from June 16 to July 15.

Real Living Magazine will be available at your favorite magazine stands and bookstores in July at P120 per copy. Get a free copy of Real Living when you buy the June issues of Cosmopolitan, Preview and Good Housekeeping.

Real Living Magazine is published by Summit Media.

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Shopwise holds first-ever Category Olympics

SHOPWISE Supercentet, the pioneer in Hypermarket operations in the Philippines, recently held awarding ceremonies for the first-ever Category Olympics for its Snacks and Beverage Festival at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati.

The Snack and Beverage Category Olympics is a novel promotional concept introduced by Shopwise to drive sales by promoting successful collaboration through competition. The Category Olympics reverses the typical promotions paradigm in which customers are directly given incentives to induce purchase of particular products. Instead, the Category Olympics provides rewards to those who are directly responsible for the success of a promotion. According to Shopwise assistant vice president for marketing Frances Yu, maximizing sales and delighting customers is a collaborative effort between the retailer and the manufacturer. Within the retailer organization, this responsibility is further shared among marketing, the buying division, and store operations.

"We harnessed the competitive spirit among Shopwise business partners, as well as Shopwise personnel who competed against each other for cash prizes worth P300,000 and other rewards. By creating friendly competition among manufacturers and various departments within Shopwise, we were able to create a real win-win situation for all participants, and most especially the customers."

After four weeks of competition, the final results were impressive. Participating manufacturers for the snacks category drew sales by an average of 80 percent versus the same period of the previous year, while participating manufacturers for the beverage category grew sales by an average of 40 percent over the same period last year. This is no small feat, considering the retail industry has been experiencing flat to minimal growth in the past year.

The winners' circle included top local and multinational manufacturing firms. For the snacks category, the grand prize went to Universal Robina Corp. (Jack & Jill), 1st runner-up was Monde Nissin and 2nd runner-up also went to Universal Robina Corp. (URC Biscuits). For the beverage category, San Miguel Corp.-CKAG (Magnolia Juice) emerged as the grand prize winner, 1st runner-up was California Manufacturing Corp. (Lipton Tea), and 2nd runner-up was Coca-Cola. Internally, Shopwise Makati bagged both awards for snacks and beverages. He judging criteria set by Shopwise was 50 percent for financial performance, 25 percent for store display, and 25 percent for efficiency.

As Shopwise business partners and store personnel strutted their best stuff, the customers were the ultimate victors. The children were delighted by the colorful and animated displays storewide that transformed the shopping ambience into a cartoon wonderland. Parents, on the other hand, welcomed the value-added promotions and price-offs for their purchases, particularly during these trying economic times.

Shopwise executive vice president and general manager Bienvenido V. Tantoco III took the opportunity to thank the valued suppliers of Shopwise for their wholehearted participation and support for the Snacks and Beverage Festival. For her part, Shopwise vice president of merchandising Catherine Y. Tantoco said this was the first time Shopwise had formally given recognition to some of its suppliers for their outstanding partnership and support. She also echoed her wish for more successful collaboration in the future.

Present during the awarding ceremonies were top executives from URC, Monde Nissin Corp., SMC-CKAG, Coca-Cola, CMC and Shopwise.

Shopwise has three branches located at the Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang, Vito Cruz Extension corner Pasong Tamo in Makati, and in Libis, Quezon City. They are open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

SHOPWISE
CRUNCH TIME
TIME

SHOWN at the awarding ceremonies with Shopwise officers are members of beverage category winner SMC-CKAG. Top row, from left, are Spike Nuestro (grocery head, Vito Cruz branch), Fernan G. Dulce, store manager, Vito Cruz branch), Manuel C. Alberto (VP store operations), Alvie Crespo (merchandise manager-beverage), and Frances J. Yu, VP marketing. Front row, from left, are Lot Sacdalan (assistant store manager, Vito Cruz branch), Willee Lising (SMC-CKAG channel manager), Dada Valentin (SMC-CKAG customer development manager), Jose Daniel Javier (SMC-CKAG VP/GM), Donnie V. Tantoco III (Shopwise EVP/GM), Crickette Y. Tantoco (Shopwise VP merchandising), Genevieve Pingo (trade promotions merchandising associate-beverages), and Bing Enriquez (food division manager).

DRYPERS ON MALL TOUR

Drypers Wee Wee Dry, the newest diaper to hit the country, breezed into SM Megamall recently to give mommies, and babies especially (as shown in the inset), a 'presko' experience like no other. Drypers Wee Wee Dry recently launched a cool and unique mall activity dubbed Drypers Cool World: Where Babies Feel Presko. Drypers Cool World tours major malls around Metro Manila and key cities nationwide to spread the cool, comfortable and presko world of Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers. Shown are entertainment numbers from clowns and fairy tale characters, just some of the numerous activities lined up for children during the mall tour. The remaining Drypers Cool World mall schedules are: Festival Supermall-June 28 and 29, Glorietta 2-July 19 and 20, Ever Commonwealth-Aug. 2 and 3, Ayala Town Center-Aug. 16 and 17, Robinsons Pampanga-Aug. 30 and 31, Citimall Batangas-Sept. 13 and 14, SM Cebu-Oct. 4 and 5, and at Gaisano Bacolod-Oct. 18 and 19.

Biggest food, beverage show opens today

THE 5TH International Food and Beverage Exposition, the leading food and beverage industry trade show in the country, officially opens today at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Expected visitors to join the organizers Training Institute of Manila Engineers (TIME) Foundation and Fairs & More Inc. (FMI) are Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Cesar M. Drilon and Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas, embassy officials and officers from presenters San Miguel Corp. and Unilever Philippines.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony starts at 9 a.m. to be followed by a brief opening ceremony with Roxas delivering the keynote address on the "Significance of the Food and Beverage Industries to the National Economy". Spread out during the four-day event that runs until June 28 are technical and business-trend seminars, along with company-sponsored demonstrations and fellowships.

The exhibit, boasting of over 200 exhibitors, is further divided into sub-events that emphasize various sectors within the thriving food and beverage industry. The exhibit is led by the major F&B equipment show "Food & Beverage Engineering Expo" co-presented with San Miguel Beer, "Bakery Manila", sponsored by San Miguel Purefoods, is an exhibition of the latest bakery equipment and ingredients. "A Taste of the World", sponsored by San Miguel Purefoods, is a showcase of culinary experiences and contests of the country's leading hotels, restaurants and culinary schools.

"Vino Toast", presented by Ginebra San Miguel Inc., is a celebration of the world's finest wines and spirits. "International Food Feast Bazaar", presented by Coca-Cola and Cosmos, is a retail marketplace of various international brands for the Filipino palate.

The list of seminars include "Environmental Scanning and Opportunity Evaluation" (DLSU, 11 a.m.), "The Financial Plan" (DLSU, June 27, 10:30 a.m.), "Total Quality Management" (DLSU, June 28, 10:30 a.m.), "How to Start Your Own Business" (DLSU, 1 p.m.), "The Marketing Plan" (DLSU, 3 p.m.), "Organizing Your Business" (DLSU, June 26, 10:30 a.m.), "Fondant Making: Quilting and Cake Designing" (CCS, June 26, 1:30 p.m.), "The Operational Plan" (DLSU, June 26, 4:30 p.m.), "Blackout Cakes: Different Styles/Kinds of Chocolate Cake" (CCS, June 27, 1:30 p.m.), "Leadership Training" (DLSU, June 27, 4:30 p.m.), "Strategic Management" (DLSU, June 28, 10:30 a.m.) and "Porcelain Flower Making: Tiny Flowers" (CCS, June 28, 4:30 p.m.).

An equally interesting lineup of free seminars include "Venturing into the F&B Business" (AIM, 1 p.m. and June 27, 5 p.m.), "Professionalizing SMEs-AIM Way" (AIM, 2:30 p.m.), "How to Access Financing for Your Business" (Export Bank, June 26 and 27, 3 p.m.), "E-commerce in the F&B Industries" (Bayantrade, June 26, 4 p.m.), "Wine Appreciation Seminar" (Rustan's Wines & Spirits, June 27, 1 p.m.), "Selling Your Products to the Japanese Market" (Jetro, June 27, 4 p.m.), "Making Use of Your Time/Time Management" (DLSU, June 27, 4 p.m., Room B), "Connecting With Your Client Through Effective Sales Strategies for the F&B Industries" (Charteris Consulting, June 28, 4 p.m.), and "Millennium Touch on HRM Wireless Technologies" (BCS, June 28, 4:30 p.m., Room B).

The 5th International Food and Beverage Exposition is co-presented by San Miguel Beer, Citibank and the Department of Agriculture, together with San Miguel Purefoods, La Tondena Distillers Inc., Coca-Cola, Philippine Beverage Partners, Cosmos and Flavors Magazine. It is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Proud Philippines website turns 1

PROUD Philippines, www.proudphilippines.com, a site dedicated to bring forth and highlight the positive side of the Philippines and the Filipinos here and around the world, celebrated its 1st anniversary May 22. Proud Philippines aims to be the venue for the many good things Filipinos can say about the Philippines and the many beautiful things they can see around the country and be proud of.

"I believe we have become very hard on ourselves. We can't seem to give ourselves, our country, our institutions, our leaders, a chance to succeed. I believe we should start looking at the positive side of the Philippines and the Filipino in us," says Romulo M. Villamin, managing partner of Philippine Directories Online and the man behind the Proud Philippines project.

"In contrast to many other countries, we tend to dwell on the negative. In the process, we have developed the habit of collective self-doubt and self-deprecation. In a world where perception and reality are mutually reinforcing, this could be our great undoing," says Villamin.

Proud Philippines invites the public to share and hear good news about our country and its people. This may be in the form of news or feature articles, opinion pieces, short stories, poems, artworks, and film reviews. Its site was recently redesigned in time for its anniversary and has been updated with more sections and interesting photos about the Philippines.

Proud Philippines is especially keen to publish work by students who do not have opportunities to share their work with a wide audience. They may send their contributions to writer@philippinedirectories.com or call (032) 256-0605 for inquiries.

Lions Clubs International
MUNTINLUPA CITY VICTORIA HOMES LIONS CLUB
DENTAL
MUNTINLUPA CITY

ROARING LIONS OF MUNTINLUPA REACH KALINGA

The Muntinlupa City (Victoria Homes) Lions Club (MCVHLC) conducted a medical and dental mission in the hinterlands of Kalinga Province May 16 and 17. The mission was undertaken with I-CARE Training Center in Quezon City, with joint efforts and participation of doctors from the provincial government through the Office of Governor Macario Dugulang. Shown (seated from left) are club members Efren Binarao, Guada De Guzman, club treasurer, Remy Oblado, Zeny Apuada, Tess Trinidad, Mona Manderico, Baybee Veridiano, and Tez Rubio. Standing, from left, are Rod Obaldo, club secretary Nilo Apuada, registration chair, Ernie Oyao, Willy Veridiano, Tom Caspe, immediate past president Cesar De Guzman Jr., 1st VP Rey Manderico and club president Rey Rubio.

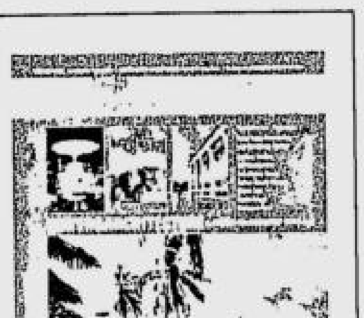
Product FILES

Water vis-à-vis architecture

WATER and architecture create a distinct ambience that tames our urban facades and refines the complexity of our cityscapes. Volume Two of BluPrint Magazine Highlights water as an important element of design in this issue's theme, "Water and Architecture".

For readers who prefer a more urbane environment but would still like to delve into aquatic themes, Kai restaurant in Greenbelt exhibits water-inspired commercial design utilizing live fish and other piscine details without becoming clichéd. And nostalgic Balara is revisited in the fashion section's "Daytrippers."

All these features and more can be seen in Vol. 2 of BluPrint Magazine. BluPrint is published by Mega Magazine and Publications Inc (MMPI) and is still available at major bookstores and newsstands at P250 a copy. Call 631-2859 or log on to www.ivegotstyle.net for details.



Clips

Ateneo Law homecoming

THE ATENEO de Manila College of Law, in its 61 year, is celebrating the Annual Alumni Homecoming on June 27 at the NBC Tent in Bonifacio Global City. This year's highlight is the honoring of the Silver (1978), Ruby (1963) and the Golden Batches (1953) of the Ateneo de Manila Law School. The 2003 alumni homecoming is hosted by the Ateneo de Manila College of Law Class of 1979 chaired by Rep. Neptali M. Gonzales II. The other Class 1979 officers include DILG Undersecretary Marius P. Corpus, Pag-ibig Fund VP Vilma Flores, lawyer Epimaco R. Magpantay, deputy executive secretary Jose T. Tale, lawyer George C. Nograles, lawyer Gregorio M. Batiller Jr., Tidcorp VP Ma. Rosario M. Demiglio and lawyer Rodolfo V. Romero. Ticket reservations are available through the secretariat at 852-7505, 0916-4110191 and look for Gigi Esteban.

Finex risk seminar

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), through its committee on corporate finance/financial institutions, is organizing a half-day seminar on "Risk Management: What You Don't Know Will Hurt You" at the Yakal Room, Dusit Hotel Nikko, on June 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. The half-day session will have acknowledged experts in the area of risk management such as Cecile R. Galvez, Leonardo J. Matignas Jr. (SGV& Co.) and professor Rolando E. Valenzuela (Export and Industry Bank). The seminar aims to impart to the public the concept and application of risk management in any profit or non-profit organization. For reservations, call the Finex secretariat at 811-4184, 811-4186 or 811-4052.

'Gabi ng Musikang Pilipino II'

ONE JUNE 27 at 7 p.m., "Gabi ng Musikang Pilipino Part 2" happens at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The concert is produced by the Character Building Foundation Inc. (CBFI), a group of professionals from the private and government sectors that advocates positive character as the foundation of a progressive nation through direct interaction with society. Guest performers include Jose Mari Chan, Hajji Alejandro, Celeste Legaspi with daughter Waya, Anna Fegi, Bayang Barrios, Richard Sginey, Marissa Sanchez, Alma Concepcion, Gino Padilla, Richard Reynoso and Rep. Ed Zialcita. The show is directed by Heidi O. Sison, who is also the foundation president. For ticket inquiries, call the CBFI secretariat at 426-3001 or 426-2983.

PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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'Is it too late to shift careers past age 30?'

By Cynthia R. Mamon
President and managing director
Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc.

I'M 35 years old, male. I graduated last 1991 from a well-known university with a degree in Commerce major in Economics. After graduation, I worked for my uncle in a marketing firm but unfortunately, the business closed in 1999 due to losses and economic difficulties. I didn't get much experience in sales and marketing because my job was "all around." I acted as sales coordinator and sales representative, collecting accounts, sampling, getting the purchase orders and doing the delivery for the past eight years.

I took some short courses in computer last year and at the same time, did part-time work for my sister's small business. But now, she doesn't need much help from me due to the slow economy here. I have plans to work abroad but for the meantime, I would like to gain two years experience here.

I would just like to know your opinion regarding my plan of taking another course (associate in Hotel and Restaurant Management) for two years starting this June 2003. Some of my subjects have been credited so I have one semester and a summer to go to finish the course in 2004. This course has 500 hours of hotel/ restaurant practicum and I am interested in learning different food and dishes. My worry is, if I finish this course, can I still have an opportunity to be accepted in a job here? Most companies are hiring people below 30 or 35 yrs old. By next year, I would be 36 years old. I feel that I will be starting all over again if I pursue my plan of working in a restaurant as a chef. Thank you very much for your kind advice and career tips.

Dreaming to be a Chef

I'm quite excited to reply to your inquiry because I can easily relate to your situation. But before I respond, since this is my first article for the "Ask Your CEO" column, I'd like to make clear that all my responses would be based on my belief that Jesus is my CEO. I also hope that my response is not yet too late, as your decision is needed by this month.

ASK YOUR CEO

Regarding your plan to take another course, I strongly support your plan given all the considerations that you presented as follows:

- The shift from your commerce degree major in Economics to an associate degree in HRM is not at all impossible. I find nothing wrong with it. I myself experienced a career shift. I completed a degree in B.S. Home Technology major in Food and Nutrition in UP Los Banos, then subsequently completed an MBA/ Masters in Agribusiness Program in UP Diliman. I found the MBA Program totally new and so I had to adjust and learn new things. This MBA Program was of great help when I shifted from government service and moved to the private sector where I eventually moved up to become a CEO. You are probably surprised how a nutritionist like myself can lead an IT company.
- Despite the fact that you'll be 36 by the time you finish your new degree, I believe that you will still have a chance (maybe a better one) to work in a restaurant as a chef (which you've always wanted). In fact, I think for chefs, age doesn't really matter. What matters are your skill and your creativity in ensuring that the food that you prepare are both tasty and presented well. Customers prefer gastronomic value and presentation. Besides, chefs are now getting to be in demand and you may have better chances of getting employment here and abroad if you excel in this new field.

Learning new things is not limited to the young. Learning is lifelong! Henry Ford once said that "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young." As you shift careers, always remember that what is important is that you pursue something that you want and you'll be happy with. If you dream of being a chef-then go for it! As Walt Disney said, "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

Finally, before you make any decision, always pray. Pray for God's guidance in whatever you do. Always remember and claim that God is committed to your success. After all, He created you. Remember Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord "They are plans for good and not for disasters, to give you a future and a hope."

And when you finally get the job of your dreams, dedicate your daily work to the Lord. God bless you always!

CEO mentor Mamon

(Do you want to learn from the experiences of Ms. Mamon? Send your letters requesting for career advice to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. *Ms Mamon, along with other topnotch CEOs, will answer your letters through this column.)*

Work/life balance will be better in future work world

WHAT ever happened to all those predictions about technology shortening our working day, leaving us with enough leisure time to do as we please? They never did materialize did they, apart from, of course, the privileged few who've managed to cash in on millions from their stock options and share plans, providing them with the means of retiring early. But as workplaces have become leaner and meaner, more of the work burden is being placed on fewer shoulders, leaving us little time for friends and family.

In fact, most of us around the world are putting in more than the expected 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours. Most of us are actually adopting the US work culture of eight till seven. In short, we're working too hard and living too little. The aging workforce means too that things are unlikely to improve, at least in the short term. If anything, the workload is going to get even heavier over the next few years, despite huge advances in technology.

Blurred lines

Surprisingly, IT inventions like email and mobile phones have done nothing to lighten the workload. In fact they've made matters worse, making employees even more accessible outside of office hours with more work spilling into home life. And, as we become even more at the mercy of the mobile phone and the Internet, the fine line between work and leisure becomes more blurred. Especially in countries like the UK and the US.

The work/life balance is also influenced by culture. The Spaniards continue their tradition of siesta and the French cut their working hours from 39 to 35, while one in four British clock up more than 50 hours a week. According to the latest OECD figures, the British work the longest hours in Europe, approximately 1,737 hours a year. That's 336 hours more than the Norwegians who put in the fewest hours (around 1,401 a year). Americans work even harder, putting in an extra 220 hours (approximately 1,957 hours a year).

Employers provide more flexible work hours, part-time or consulting arrangements and other schemes to enable workers to spend more time at home. GRAPHICS ERNIE SAMBO

There's a tremendous pressure on Americans to work extremely long hours too, where the working day can start as early as 6 or 7 am, and the annual holiday entitlement is limited to a meagre 10 to 15 days. Like Like the rest of Westeren Europe, British employees enjoy their holiday provision of at least 20 days, although it's not as good as the 30 days offered by the Spanish, Swedish and Australian employers. But it's much better than the meagre six days annual leave you'd get in Mexico. In the US and in Asian countries like Japan and Hong Kong, workers are only entitled to around 10 to 15 days of holiday time a year. But in Japan and Hong Kong, they won't take all of it—out of loyalty to the company. They are also expected to work late hours. The working day theoretically ends at 5pm, but people rarely leave on the dot. They're expected to stay on till 8 or 9 p.m.

Sometimes even longer. "And it's not appropriate for juniors to leave before seniors either," says one accountant working for a British publishing company, who worked in Japan and Hong Kong for a number of years before coming to work in the UK. "It's also an embarrassment to take days off sick. Unless you're dying, that is. But the 13 months pay a year (which includes one month's bonus), certainly makes up for it."

Culture-based

Working long hours in countries like Japan however is a must to maintain face within the local community. "If a man comes home from work early, it's seen as not making enough of a sacrifice to provide for his family," says Sadia Nadeem, PHD researcher at City University in London, researching flexible working as a work/life policy. "But in the West, the long hours' working culture is frowned upon and parents are often accused of neglecting the family." This is just one of the many reasons why employees are increasingly valuing work/life balance more.

Quality of life value

According to Stanford University, some of their brightest and most sought after students say that quality of life is valued over pay. Radcliffe Public Policy Center reported that in a recent study, 82 percent of men and 85 percent of women ages 20-39 put family time at the top of their list of workplace issues. Recent CNN interviews with thirty-something CEOs who survived the dot-com frenzy, report those who had worked themselves 24/7, are now re-evaluating their lives and putting friends, family and playtime at the top of their priority lists. Work/life balance is and will continue to become important for generation X and Y. As they are the sandwich generation, they have to balance work while taking care of their children and aging parents.

In a bid to hang on to their existing valued staff—especially in an era of severe skills shortages - smart employers are having to offre flexible working options to help restore some balance to employees' lives, through things like job sharing, a compressed working week, or teleworking.

WORK/ LIFE / B0

Sales awardees prove 'ordinary' people can achieve extraordinary results

PARADA

MAGBOO

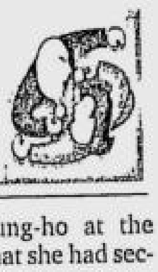
PASCUA

IT was all in the newspapers recently: "Pre-need industry sales down." The economy is in a downturn and the SARS scare isn't making things easier. Yet, inspite of so many negative factors impinging on the business environment, there are some people out there, who just simply keep on succeeding in—guess what?—the pre-need industry.

Pooch Eduarte Pascua, Selle Parada, Edgie Magboo, who are members of the elite President's Cup circle of Ayala Plans, Inc., are exactly the type of people, who never let negatives get in the way of their success. And the amazing fact is they never saw themselves as gifted or amazing people before they entered the pre-need selling business. They simply focused on the positives, their career goals and on continuously building relationships with clients.

Pascua, a psychology degree holder from Notre Dame University in Cotabato City, joined the Ayala Plans sales force in Davao in December 1999 through an acquaitance's casual invitation to attend an orientation program.

CAREER TALES



She wasn't all gung-ho at the start. She relates that she had second thoughts at first, fearing unfamiliar ground (for many years prior to Ayala Plans, she worked in a travel agency in Manila). But after only three years and a few months in the force, she's now one of the company's top area managers, having racked up sales almost five million in her area in 2002.

Key elements

The 39-year-old Pascua says four key elements are the underpinnings of her professional success--pure hard work, patience, perseverance, and Divine Intervention. "Good old *sipag* at *tiyaga*," says the lady, who overcame her fear of making a 180-degree turn from the world of employment to the world of entrepreneurship (Ayala Plans agents are not employees). "It's not easy, to get profitable accounts," she explains. "It takes time. You have a planting season, a waiting period, and then harvest. A successful salesperson must have short-term goals and long-range goals."

Twenty-eight years old Prada, who has a nursing degree from the Makati Medical Center School of Nursing, was an ordinary nurse working a typical 40-hour week in a hospital. But the lure of a bigger income always beckoned for her, making it easy to accept an invitation from her mother (a top Ayala agent).

Referrals

From 2001 to present, the road to the top for Parada was quick, being paved with numerous referrals from relatives and friends. "I visit clients after work and on my days off," she says. "Inspite of spending only a fraction of my waking hours on selling pre-need products, I earn 30 percent more than the nursing job." In 2002, on just her second year of selling for Ayala Plans, Parada grossed more than P1.5 million in premiums, helping her become a President's Cup awardee at the sales convenor level.

The rewards go beyond the financial for Parada. "My personality was enhanced. I eventually discovered that talking to people from all walks of life was quite easy, after all," she says. "The clients brought out a certain enthusiasm in me. That enthusiasm brought about the sales."

The boyish-looking, 30-year-old Magboo, who has a degree in economics, used to sell cars and veterinary products and even had a stint as a valet parker in one of Manila's luxury hotels. The tips were good but valet parking just wasn't a great career to build on, he figured. His friend, Selle Parada, convinced him to join Ayala Plans. The difficulty factor wasn't too much for him, as relatives and friends gave him tons of referrals. The referrals were profitable, indeed, as Magboo's sales reached P1.5 million in 2002, easily making him a President's Cup awardee.

The selling success formula of the basically quiet and reserved Magboo was maddeningly basic—overcome shyness. Like Parada, he developed a winning personality on the job that aided him in landing major deals. Nonetheless, he credits patience and persistence, too. "My biggest deal was the hardest. It took four months of constant following up," he recalls.

Indeed, these three prove to all ordinary employees that big things are achievable if they overcome their fears—fear of failure, fear of hard work—and venture into the world of entrepreneurship.

The best place to start solving a problem isn't always with the solution

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I manage a warehouse that's got a huge turnover problem. It's gotten so bad that I've got to run a new employee orientation every other week. I've tried everything I can think of, but I'm starting to think that people just don't want to work anymore.

Turnover Blues

I generally reserve my intimate dental secrets for my dentist, but in this case I'll make an exception. Here's the skinny: I still have a baby tooth-and a while back, it thrust me into dental hell. A new dentist, to whom I'd gone for a routine cleaning, declared that the "baby" was disrupting my entire bite and that the problem would cost thousands to fix. I didn't bark about my bite. I did what any dental-fearing person would do: I got a second opinion. Dentist #2 agreed there could be a problem, but suggested that we monitor the situation for a while. That was ten years ago and the "baby" is still happily nuzzled amidst my molars.

Now, the trouble with the workplace these days is that too many people are like Dentist #1. They leap to immediate solutions. Don't get me wrong: there are plenty of times when immediate action is required. But often, leaping to solutions only makes things worse. In "Doing it Right the First Time" (Wiley, 1996), Gerard Nierenberg suggests a five-step medical model for diagnosing and treating problems. I've borrowed (rather liberally) from his model.

Are you treating the symptom or the problem? You claim turnover is your problem. But I suspect that's merely the symptom of an underlying disease. Something is causing the turnover, and until you find out what that is, you're just sticking on band-aids. So now it's time to run some tests. Poke, prod, question, and x-ray your employees until you find out why they're leaving. Could be an unfair supervisor, unrealistic wages, inadequate training...Don't stop testing until you've uncovered the root cause.

How should you treat the problem? This is the really hard part. (It's where Dentist #1 failed.) Once you've pinpointed the cause, resist the urge to leap to a solution. It won't be the best, only the first. Instead, do some research. Look for alternatives. Ask the people involved to help you come up with solutions. Then work with them to weigh the pros and cons of each.

Taking a little longer to get the right solution will spare you a lot of pain later.

How can you prevent a recurrence? As you consider possible solutions, keep in mind that you'll probably need two: a short-term solution to fix the immediate crisis, and a long-term solution to solve the underlying problems. Resist the temptation to stop at solution number one: without complete treatment, the disease is likely to recur.

So remember: the next time you plan to sink your teeth into a problem, take time for a thorough diagnosis. It will make for better solutions-And save you thousands in dental bills.

DIONISIO BUCCAT

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com*)*

Top 10 ways of leading

By Barbara McRae

THE QUALITY of your relationship with yourself and those you lead profoundly impacts your level of success.

1. Communicate a higher purpose.

We have all heard of the studies, which show that people accomplish more when they fully understand the significance of their individual contribution. It isn't enough to merely post a company mission statement. Your values have to be lived. Staff members will follow your lead and produce extraordinary results when they can identity with powerful goals, which provide meaning beyond mere enrichment of corporate officers or shareholders. Give them a compelling vision and model it.

2. Believe in yourself and your staff.

Belief in one's self is paramount for a leader. Know who you are and what you represent. People cannot respect someone who won't stand up for what they believe and blows with the wind.

Develop a reputation for high standards and ethics. Then, you will emanate confidence and strength and naturally attract the loyalty of others. And, see the greatness in those around you. People tend to rise up to your expectations if they feel you truly believe in them.

3. Treat others as equals.

Do you treat file clerks with the same warmth and respect as the board members? A new senior level manager I've known treated her boss with great respect while barking orders to her staff and conducted employee meetings with a superior air. When major projects required people to stay late into the evening and work weekends, she had to insist they be there. Morale plummeted to an all-time low until I was called in for damage control. Treating people with respect no matter where they fall in the hierarchy will empower them to do their best work.

4. Open to the ideas of others.

A common pitfall is subscribing to the "Lone Ranger Syndrome;" a belief that one should know it all, tightly control projects and take all the credit. This approach is very limiting, does not support new opportunities, and does not promote respect from your staff. When was the last time you implemented someone else's idea? Did you give credit to where it was due or do you believe all good ideas come from you?

5. Have nothing to hide.

Bag the hidden agendas and be transparent. By holding back information, trust deteriorates. While the motive may be to protect your people, it comes off being patronizing and causes resentment. Share as many facts with your people as you can and see them being able to handle it. They probably sense the truth already. Make yourself more human by sharing something about yourself. Be real.

6. Interest your team.

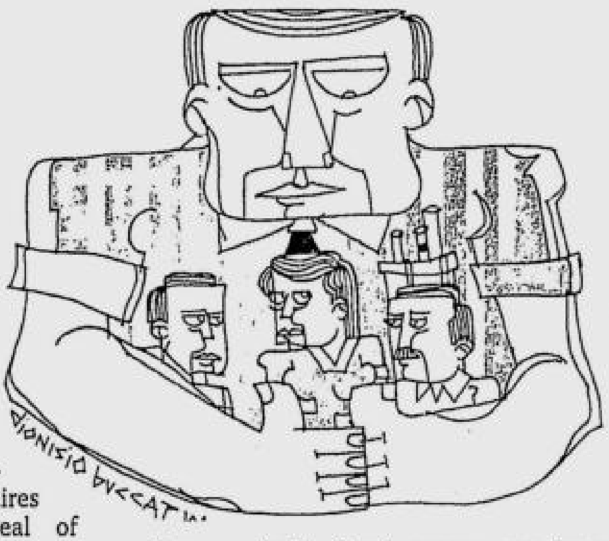
Leaders often get so caught up in communicating what needs to be accomplished that they overlook asking for the dedication of their staff. Don't proceed with your working relationships until you have the courage to ask each team member where they stand and then be silent while waiting for the response. A key negotiating and interviewing skill is to be able to ask hard questions without being uncomfortable with the initial silence that follows. The inexperienced will rush in to fill the space, mostly to their disadvantage. Without interest your results suffer.

7. Make your staff right.

In most businesses today, you can hear the phrase: the customer is always right. This premise often disables your people, especially when they were following the guidelines management set for them. How do you think it makes people feel when their decisions are reversed simply because the customer complained to the manager? Southwest Airlines' CEO, Herb Kelleher, believes his employees come first. As a result, his company has had the lowest customer complaint statistics in the industry.

8. Give authority.

There are voluminous cases of where projects are delegated to staff without appropriate authority to make decisions. With the rate of change we are experiencing now, standing still really means falling behind. It is no longer affordable for leaders to be personally involved in all decision-making. Granted the sharing of authority requires a great deal of trust. To increase your comfort level, gradually start coaching your people and equip them with their own "tool kit;" this will ultimately leverage your power and success.



9. Look for positive motives.

What would change in your dealings with people if you presumed positive purposes? My experience in opening communication with this premise allows for creative resolutions even amidst employee disputes. A key to advanced relating with others is to be able to see the best in them. Be willing to give the benefit of the doubt. Don't assume you know the motivations of others.

10. Acknowledge others often.

No one likes feeling invisible. Most everyone wants being valued and appreciated when it is sincere. Start focusing on what people are doing right and praise them for it. Too many times the only feedback that is provided is negative. Acknowledge your team members in private and public often. See them grow in ability and dedication.

(Reprinted with permission: from www.coachville.com*)*

Safety net lets you dance on the high wire

By Cathy Goodwin

CAREER freedom-seekers often ask: "Should I give up my job and move to another place?" Or, "Should I quit my job to start a business?"

Imagine that you decide to walk across a room on a high wire. You probably have no desire to do this, but suppose you believed there was a secure net under you. You can fall anytime, with no harm done. Would you be more comfortable taking the risk? Would you have fun dancing on the wire, perhaps trying out some daring moves? Or think of driving down a narrow driveway, with a steep drop-off on one side. With a guardrail in place, you can drive faster than you would otherwise.

Go slow!

When you are contemplating a life change, I recommend moving very, very slowly. Ask lots of questions. Do your research, and then do more research. Take trial steps and weigh the consequences. And, most important, create your safety net.

A safety net is anything that lets you dance free on the high wire or take a mountain curve at 40 miles an hour. It's whatever makes you feel safe. Your safety net can be cash stored in a savings account (or a mattress); a flexible career, such as medicine, accounting-or house cleaning; a supportive family; a retirement income. It is important to remember that one person's safety net will be another person's cobweb.

Recently I attended a teleclass about business start-ups. One caller told us, "I sold all my possessions and moved 2,000 miles, to a city where I knew nobody. In just a few months, I had a profitable business, a great place to live, and some wonderful new friends."

Fortunately the class leader intervened: "I want to give you full credit for making that move," he said, "but not everyone can, or should, do that." He was right. This caller's safety net consisted of her personality, energy and networking skills. Some people would also want financial security.

Safety nets can be elusive. Sam felt comfortable starting a business after he'd saved a large cash reserve. Once the business was underway, Sam's reserve seemed smaller and he began to reconsider his decision. And once you've danced on the wire, you won't want to land on the net with a thud.

Fallback

In her book, "The Cinderella Complex," Colette Dowling describes a fortyish woman who takes a leave of absence from her teaching job to seek a career as a film director in Los Angeles. To make ends meet, the woman sells her house and takes a day job as a tax preparer. Months later, she realizes she hates her day job more than she ever hated her teaching job. She also realizes that she needs 20 years to become a film director, and she will be sixty when she gets her first job. Los Angeles is a city of youth. The woman returned to her teaching job. Thud!

To avoid emergency landings, place your net before embarking on the risky adventure. Marianne consulted me about starting a business. I asked how long she could survive on her savings. "A year," she replied. "Maybe a little longer."

"Some businesses take awhile to get off the ground," I reminded her. "You may need more than a year. Or you may discover you hate the business, or some uncontrollable event has made your business obsolete or unmarketable."

"I thought about all that," said Marianne, "and I can always take a job at X Company. I've worked there before and they said they will make a place for me."

"Imagine," I said, "six months down the road, that you fear the business is growing too slowly. You may have a personal emergency that calls for cash. Now you're in a one-down, weak position. You really need a job."

"Better," I continued, "to take a job at the start of your business, or keep the job you have now. If your profits soar, you can bid farewell to your day job. You can use the extra cash to grow your business faster, have some fun or save for the next crisis. But you will be free.

"If you take a job later, out of need, you will be in a one-down position. You show up, hat in hand, asking for work. You will not feel as free and you may even feel trapped."

No choice

Sometimes you have no choice. If you are laid off, or otherwise unable to continue your career, you may have to find a way to start a business or move to a new city before you can get a safety net in place. Ideally, you can plan a net before you encounter a crisis, but that is not always possible. People do get taken by surprise. I know people who were astonished to find themselves too burned out to continue their careers. Some even fought the evidence. In those circumstances, safety nets may have to be custom-made, using more than a little creativity. But they can, and should, be found.

In summary, a safety net allows you to find freedom, and more important, keep freedom. Design a safety net before you choreograph the high-wire act, and you will honor your commitment to be a free spirit.

(Reprinted with permission from www.movinglady.com. Cathy Goodwin, Ph.D is an author, career coach and speaker of "Fast Track to Career Freedom." Send e-mail to cathy@movinglady.com*)*

Work/life balance ...

From page B0

Perks to lighten the load

Companies are already using and will continue to offer perks that restore leisure for work, in a bid to attract and retain the best and brightest. Fortune Magazine's annual article, "The 100 Best Companies to Work For" reports that 25 percent of the "best companies to work for" offer onsite daycare. Thiry percent offer fully paid sabbaticals and almost 30 percent offer concierge services for picking up dry-cleaning, running errands, or meeting the dishwasher repair man at home. Many even offered to take home meals to lighten up the load.

Concierge services offered by the bigger organizations to relieve employees of mundane chores, from booking a plumber to arranging kids' birthday parties, are becoming extremely popular in the US and Europe. According to Tim Shorten, MD and founder of London-based concierge service Enviego, "Unlike other benefits like in-house massages, concierge services do actually free up leisure time so that employees can spend more time with family and friends, or on pastimes they enjoy. The benefits to both employers and employees speak for themselves. Less absenteeism, less stress and more productivity at work." Fin O'Hara, business development manager at Ceridian Performance Partners, operating in the UK, Canada and the US agrees.

"But," she points out. "They shouldn't be used to keep people chained at their desks—because that defeats the whole object of the exercise."

What about the future?

One thing that we can bank on, is a smaller number of young workers trying to balance work with caring for their elderly baby-boom parents and their children. And the only way companies will be able to keep hold of a dwindling young workforce, is to follow the lead of certain Silicon Valley firms and many Fortune 1,000 companies in offering childcare arrangements. And help with their aging parents. Employers are already responding with more flexible work hours, part-time or consulting arrangements, telecommuting and other schemes to enable workers to spend more time at home, but they are going to have to become even more flexible. Alan Halcrow, editor of Workforce magazine, predicts that work will continue "to kind of move around in the day"—people working four hours and then taking four hours to take care of their children, and then going back to work.

And for those who still have to go in the office, some futurists predict the emergence of satellite centers, which will enable employees to work in a corporate environment, while maintaining easy access to children, aging parents, and area amenities and services. Futuristic organizations like The World Future Society predict that we will see also centers emerging where our leisure time activities converge to combat the overworking syndrome. They foresee a public place "for meeting business or social contacts, with a restaurant of cafe, gym, library, Internet access and cinema all under one roof. It would make sense to commercially group everything together like this, as it would provide a hook to keep people there as long as possible. Ultimately, however, in the future, advanced technologies will make things easier giving employees more choice in the way the work, and in how many hours they put in to work and play.

In fact, some futurists, like Jeremy Rifkin, author of "The End of Work," maintain that we'll see so many more advances in technology that we'll need fewer and fewer employees to produce goods and services. According to Rifkin, we will have so much leisure time on out hands that we'll actually be resoting to community, social and voluntary work to lighten the "leisure load." But it's unlikely we'll see that for a few decades yet.

(From Thomson/ DBM's Tomorrow's World of Work Series. Reprinted with permission.)

BUSINESS

Giant protests to meet Chinese leaders in HK

HONG KONG—Chinese leaders are expected to descend on Hong Kong next week bearing gifts worth billions of dollars to support its ailing economy, but they are unlikely to be welcomed with open arms.

Instead, critics of the city's Beijing-backed government say up to 100,000 people will use next Tuesday's sixth anniversary of the return of the former British colony to China to air their grievances on the streets.

If the organizers' predictions prove correct, the protests will be the biggest in the city in the years since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

"It is a boiling pot that will explode sooner or later. The question is whether Beijing or the Hong Kong government will do something to cool it down," University of Hong Kong politics lecturer Sonny Lo told Reuters.

Hong Kong newspapers that are close to Beijing say Premier Wen Jiabao and other senior officials will be in town for the anniversary and the signing on Monday of a free-trade deal between Hong Kong, which enjoys special administrative status, and mainland China.

The immediate target of Tuesday's protests is an anti-subversion law planned by the Hong Kong government and denounced by critics as a threat to freedoms in the city.

But critics of the Hong Kong government also accuse it of failing to stem years of economic weakness and of a string of policy blunders, including its initial handling of the flu-like SARS epidemic, which killed almost 300 people and terrorized the city for more than three months.

A gift?

Widely seen as a gift from China, the free-trade deal seeks to bolster the financial center's once-vaunted business confidence as its economy teeters on the brink of its third recession in six years.

The deal is expected to eliminate tariffs on thousands of Hong Kong goods, saving local firms billions of dollars a year.

Benefits for China's booming economy will be marginal.

Many commentators question the timing, just weeks before the government wants its anti-subversion legislation passed into law.

"It is designed to appease the angry populace, but the working class will not be happy. There are no immediate benefits and only a few in business will benefit," said Lo.

Under the new law, people convicted of treason or subversion can be jailed for life and the state can hold closed-door trials. Rights groups say it could be used to jail anyone critical of Chinese or Hong Kong leaders.

World opposition to the bill is growing. The United States last week stressed that Hong Kong's special status as part of China depended on the protection of human and civil rights.

The government argues the bill will be among the most liberal national security laws in the world. It has rejected pleas for more consultation and refused to release a full draft for public debate, saying ordinary people wouldn't understand it.

"The government likes to tell the world that most Hong Kong people accept this law, but we will be out there to tell them that is absolutely not true," said Laura Tang, who will be marching in her first protest on July 1.

Public debate?

Hong Kong must approve the law under its constitution, agreed by Britain and China before the handover, but the draft gives no timetable. Beijing has been pressing Hong Kong to enact it, fearing the city may be used as a base for subversive activities.

The government's refusal to allow more public consultation and widespread anger about its inability to revive the economy have sparked calls for greater democratization in the territory.

Hong Kong's constitution also provides for eventual universal suffrage, but the government has refused to discuss a timetable for a public debate on this. Such amendments would require majority approval from the legislature, which is packed with pro-Beijing and pro-government lawmakers.

"Most people out there at the protest will be unhappy with (Hong Kong leader) Tung Chee-hwa," said political commentator Andy Ho.

Hong Kong was promised a high degree of autonomy under a "one country, two systems" principle after its handover.

Before 1997, it was consumed by fear that Beijing would meddle in its affairs. Now, hardly a month goes by without a local politician or businessmen making a pilgrimage to Beijing.

Lecturer Lo said that by asking for concessions like the trade pact, Hong Kong was speeding up its integration with mainland China and making itself more beholden to the central government. *Reuters*

Harry Potter rally loses steam

SEATTLE—The shares of Scholastic Inc. and Barnes & Noble.com fell sharply Monday after the magic wore off the weekend sales debut of the latest Harry Potter book.

Scholastic, the US publisher of the J.K. Rowling book, said it sold more than 5 million copies of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" by the end of the first day of sales on Saturday.

But Scholastic shares closed the day down 4.78 percent, or $1.48, at $29.50 on Nasdaq in the late afternoon after falling as low as $28.48, a decline of 8 percent.

Analysts said investors were looking to cash in on the stock's rise ahead of the book's publication.

"I think it's probably just a situation of buy the rumor, sell on the news," said Neil Godsey, an analyst at ThinkEquity Partners. "The stock has run up nicely from where it bottomed, probably amid anticipation of Harry Potter." Scholastic shares have rebounded more than 36 percent from a 52-week low of $22.70 in early March.

The shares of online bookseller Barnes & Noble.com plummeted more than 16 percent on Monday as investors took profits from a month-long rally that doubled the price ahead of the June 21 release of the book.

"It was a Harry Potter rally," said William Armstrong, an analyst at brokerage CL King & Associates, who owns no shares in Barnes & Noble or Barnes & Noble.com. "The shares are probably down because they were up extremely sharply over the last couple weeks and now that Harry Potter has been released, people are taking profits." The online bookseller's stock lost 44 cents to trade at $2.24 on Nasdaq in the afternoon.

But other retailers got a boost. Amazon.com Inc. shares closed up 54 cents at $35.58. Amazon said it received more than 1.3 million orders worldwide for the latest Harry Potter book, calling it the "largest sales and distribution events in e-commerce history." The Web retailer said it arranged to deliver nearly 800,000 copies of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" to doorsteps across the United States.

Barnes & Noble shares, however, lost 12 cents to $22.30. Parent Barnes and Noble had said it planned to sell more than one million Harry Potter books in its bookstores and via the online store.

The Borders Group Inc.'s shares gained 6 cents to $16.94. *Reuters*

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Former Microsoft employee faces fraud charges

SEATTLE—A former Microsoft Corp. employee accused of stealing software worth $17 million was charged with 62 counts of mail and computer fraud.

Richard Gregg, 43, of Bellevue, Washington, pleaded innocent to the charges Monday.

Gregg, a former project coordinator for Windows development, is accused of ordering software with a retail value of $17 million through the company's internal software ordering system and then reselling it.

Employees do not buy the software, which is intended for use at their jobs.

His attorney, Robert Goldsmith, did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press and Gregg could not be reached for comment.

Microsoft fired Gregg in December 2002 after a company investigation into employees' use of the software ordering system. The investigation was sparked by a similar case in which an employee, Daniel Feussner, was accused of stealing software with a retail value of $9 million and then using the money to buy expensive cars and jewelry.

Feussner, who was awaiting trial on federal charges of wire, mail and computer fraud, died in February after drinking antifreeze.

Gregg faces 31 counts of mail fraud and 31 counts of computer fraud. Each mail fraud count carries maximum penalties of 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine. Each computer fraud count carries maximum penalties of five years in prison and a $250,000 fine. *AP*

Philip Morris asks for speedy appeal of $10.1-B verdict

MOUNT VERNON—Philip Morris USA, the nation's largest cigarette maker, asked an Illinois appeals court to approve a speedy schedule for its appeal of a $10.1-billion lawsuit over light cigarettes.

The cigarette maker asked the 5th District Appellate Court in Mount Vernon, Illinois, to extend an August deadline for filing its appeal to Sept. 19 and to approve a four-month schedule for both sides to submit briefs in the case, according to the motion.

Typically, such appeals take far longer to complete, and include several extensions in the schedule, William Ohlemeyer, associate general counsel and vice president of the company, said Monday.

The company also asked the court to grant no extensions during the appeal.

In March, Madison County Judge Nicholas Byron ordered Philip Morris to pay $10.1 billion to 1.1 million Illinois smokers for misleading them into believing light cigarettes are less harmful than regular brands.

He also ordered the company to post an initial $6 billion appeal bond in the case, and pay hundreds of millions of dollars more over the length of the appeal. The bond is meant to ensure the judgment is paid if the plaintiffs prevail.

The company, a unit of New York-based Altria Group Inc., argued it never claimed its light cigarettes were less harmful than regular brands.

Company officials also believe the lawsuit never should have been allowed to proceed because members of the class have too little in common, Ohlemeyer said.

It was on that basis that a Florida appeals court in May threw out a $145-billion verdict in another tobacco class-action lawsuit in which Philip Morris was a defendant, Ohlemeyer said.

Lawyer Stephen Tillery, who represents the 1.1 million Illinois smokers in the lawsuit, did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press.

Altria shares rose 84 cents to close at $43.85 Monday on the New York Stock Exchange. *AP*

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BO Razon heats up the World Music stage.

Fete dela Musique 2003: one voice, one world

Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

"ANG *saya*," Chavi Romowac giddily tells me. "And I'm sure *sasaya pa*."

He has every right to be happy. For one, he and his group have already sold two K-hons, the percussion instrument that almost every band just has to have onstage, and it's only 7:30 p.m.

Then there's the festival itself.

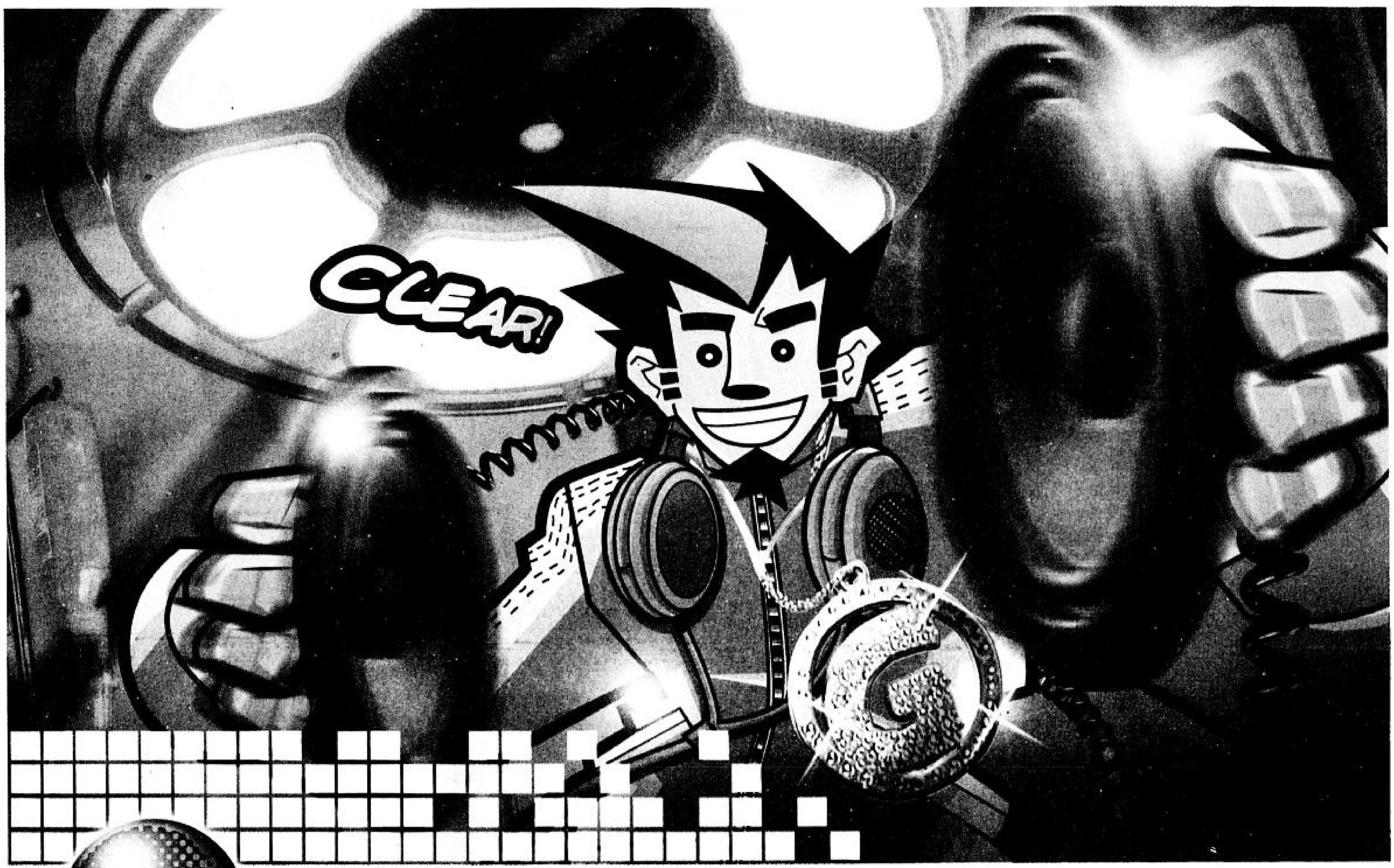
The 10th annual Fete dela Musique at El Pueblo in Ortigas on Saturday outdoes itself once again. Now housing more unsigned bands and harnessing two new venues—one for electronica and the other for K-hon percussionists—the festival follows this year's schedule without much delay. And, of course, it doesn't rain.

Listen to the music

Cynthia Alexander is psyched to start her set. She's playing with a group, and she's relieved that this year, people would know where she's making music.

"Last year was harried, because it

FETE/ C2



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MAKING beautiful music: Rivermaya's Japs Sergio and Kathy Meneses

KAPATID'S Ira Cruz and Karl Roy display the benefits of beer.

IT'S a package deal. Any takers? Reg Rubio and Marc Abaya

A VERY, very rare picture of Twisted Halo's Vin Dancel without his hand on his face, with Cambio's Kris Gorra-Dancel.

WHERE the girls are: MYX gal Ala Paredes with Samara Aguilar

PALAKIHAN tayo ng mata! Happy Meals' Odin Fernandez and Sugarfree's Jal Taguibao

Fete dela Musique 2003: one voice, one world

COUPLE of the night: Lucky Manzano and Heart Evangelista. (Lucky admits he's partial to world and R&B.)

With more unsigned bands playing for the overflow crowd, this year's festival outdid itself once again

IYAK naaa! Twisted Halo's Joey Odulio gives Boldstar's Marie Jamora a warm welcome.

MARC de Guzman and Enzo Marcos prove their band, Severo, is angsty enough for next year's rock roster.

DICTA License's Bryan Makasiar, Kelley Mangahas and Poch Labog

From page C1

rained and the main stage [where I was slated to play] was not set up with the possibility of rain in mind," she says as she lists down tonight's set list.

"They had to move me to another venue, and no one knew where I was!"

Not that she's complaining. Cynthia loves to perform, and is convinced it's more in the spirit of giving. "Music is a tool for bringing people together," she says.

Radha agrees. As she's lounging around the backstage area of the hip-hop venue at Sidebar, she shares her hopes of people realizing that hip-hop in the Philippines is more than just Ashanti and Ja Rule covers.

"The Fete is a good place to let people know about our kind of music and that it exists," she says. "As an artist, it's your responsibility to make people aware about the kind of music you make."

She doesn't deny that she throws in a cover or two during her sets, but she's quick to point out that you need something like that to get the audience hooked.

"I'd also want to see Binky Lampano!" she confesses. "He's been in the States for the longest time, and just got back now. And also Greyhoundz. People think that you only listen to the kind of music you make, like you lock yourself in a room."

Singing in one voice

One artist who definitely doesn't lock himself in a room is <s>andwich's Marc Abaya. He's making the rounds and greeting everyone he knows in the throngs of people he has to pass through.

"I love the Fete," he says. "There's great music, and everybody's happy."

He's also got a thing or two to say about getting the world to sing in one voice. "I think it's clear in the music. That it's just so diverse... like people. Which makes music an easy medium to get people together."

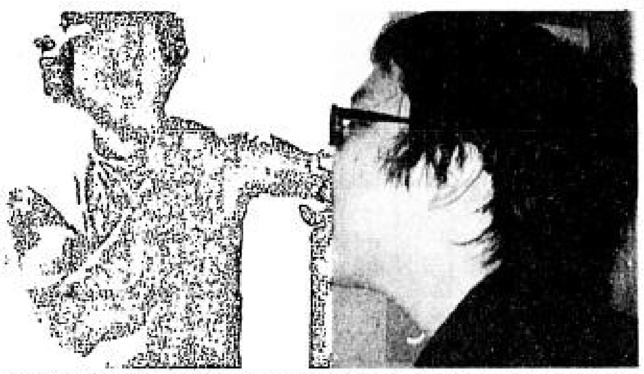
Echo Singson of Boldstar agrees. "It's a timely theme, because of everything that's going on. It's the first step to world peace." He

FETE/ C3

THE GUYS at the K-Hon booth: Hannah Romowac of Session Road, Mark Escueta of Rivermaya, and Chavi Romowac

THE HIP-HOP CREW. *Whut?!* Radha with Nathan and RJ of Sun Valley Crew

MR. Magician Mime will goose you for free.

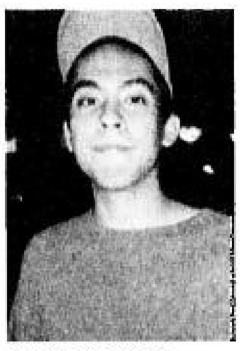

CONRAD Javier of Boy Elroy will do anything for you to buy their demo. Hey, it's a fair exchange—there are six songs for P50.

IS this legit? Echo Singson of Boldstar

RIA of Murder of Crows gets her wish of Boldstar making this year's lineup.

ONE probable reason there wasn't any riot this year: Chicosci's Miguel Chavez and his band didn't play.

MOJOFLY'S new vocalist Lougee Basabas

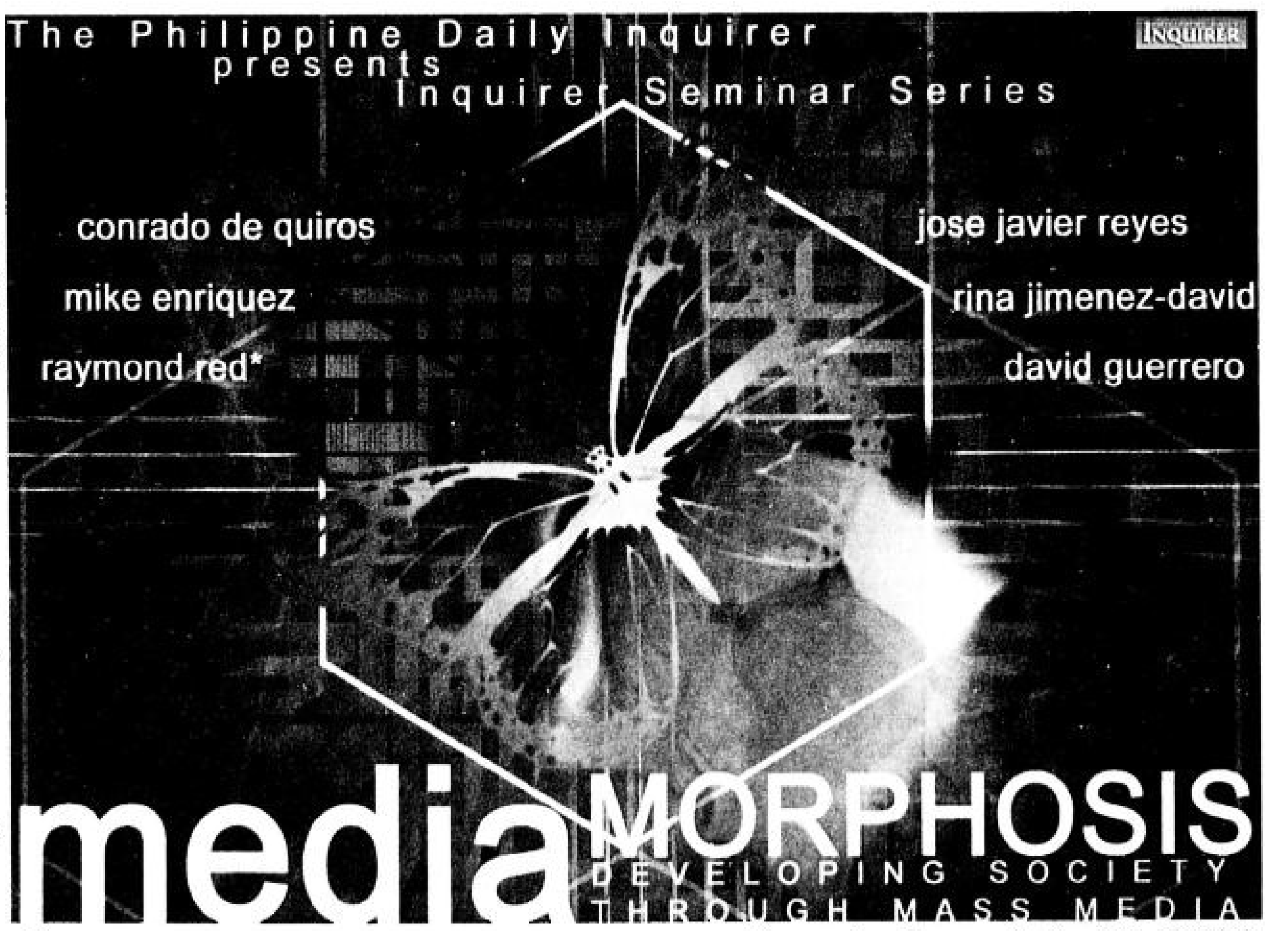

SUGARFREE'S Mitch Singson

DICTA License's Nix pulls off "The Incredible Hulk"...

... AND Raimund Marasigan does the same.

IMAGO'S pretty Aia de Leon

THE K-HON percussionists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one voice, one world

From page C2

pauses, then adds, "But I know that's not going to happen in this lifetime."

Acel of Moonstar88 is a lot more optimistic. Being one of the very few female-fronted bands playing this year, Moonstar88 is ready to do the Fete a second time.

"We played two years ago, and it was so different from what the Fete has become now," says Acel, gushing. She starts on how it was only one venue in Malate then as opposed to this year's much bigger venue. She's also excited to see Indio-I. After all, she's been a fan of them since her Orphan Lily years in 1997.

When asked about the theme, she agrees that the diversity of music speaks for the different cultures of the world.

Ria of Murder of Crows is elated. She gets her wish that Boldstar would play this year. "And people are a lot more receptive," she says. "[People] got the true meaning of the festival."

CYNTHIA Alexander's happy that it's a rain-free day.

DIEGO Mapa and his favorite accessories for the night.

BOTTOMS UP! Moonstar88's Acel Bisa

MANUEL Legarda. Yes, he's still alive.

RANN Golamco, 1/3 of the electronica group Drip

"I'M here because I want to show off my Shakira dance moves," says director Avid Liongoren, here wth cousin Angkol.

"The crowd is so dense," Imago's Arvin Gatmaitan adds. "To get to the other side from here, it takes 15 minutes."

But he's happy, too. He never seems to be able to play the Fete with his band because he's always out of the country during the festival.

It's also quite like a big party, if you come to think of it. So many musicians sessioning for each other, like a huge jamming session.

"Watch Session Road!" Rivermaya's Mike Elgar says later. "I'm playing for them!" Mark Escueta also plays for maybe half the bands, and let's not forget the All-Star blues jam with Jun Lopito.

The Jazz venue turns out to be the most popular and crowded, and for once, the Rock crowd doesn't get rowdy.

With the success of this year's Fete dela Musique, there's no doubt that next year's festival would be a much bigger and better party.

BUDDY Zabala gets hydrated.

Don't let school dampen 'kikay' spirit

Lora Gabol

YOU catch a glimpse of yourself in the mirror a week after school starts, and it hits you hard on the face: back-to-school means back-to-stress. Late nights, early starts, piles of work—all this translate into unsightly raccoon eyes, blotched skin, dull lifeless hair. With only about 15 minutes of "me" time to spare, what's a *kikay* girl to do?

Thankfully, for those who just can't afford to look like something Egay brought in, the best pick-me-up doesn't have to involve a lengthy, fussy ritual. Grab a bottle, play with a brush, and you can look pretty again in a flash. Here are the freshest, newest ways to glow, girls!

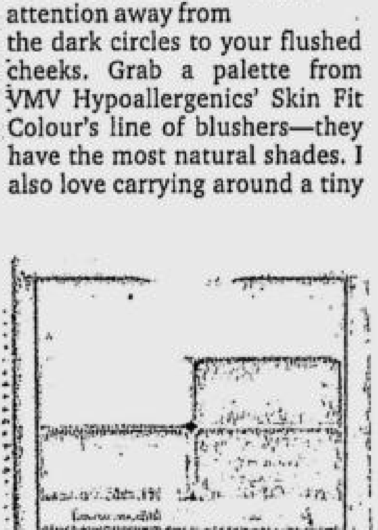
Find a cool scent to get you feeling shower-fresh all day! Crowded classrooms and halls could make you feel sticky and stinky, so keeping a bottle of your fave cologne handy might be the next best thing to a portable shower and tub. I'm absolutely addicted to the new scent from Jennifer Lopez, appropriately called Glow. I get compliments from people after a whiff of this scent—you can't go wrong with its clean, crisp fragrance. Hey, if the poster girl for sexy wears it herself, I can't think of any reason you shouldn't!

Avoid looking like you washed your face in oil even when you're harassed to death. You can't always fit a visit to the powder room to "freshen up" in between classes that seem to be miles apart, so use an oil-and-blemish-fighting regimen at home. Check out L'Oreal Dermo-Expertise's new range, Pure Zone. With the exfoliating salicylic acid and patented formula sebo-calmyl, your oil glands are likely to behave.

KERASTASE Oleo-Relax

Don't be paler than the sheet of paper you'll write on by using a touch of vibrant blush. Whether you pick cool pink, warm peach, or daring red, be sure to draw attention away from the dark circles to your flushed cheeks. Grab a palette from VMV Hypoallergenics' Skin Fit Colour's line of blushers—they have the most natural shades. I also love carrying around a tiny tube of Philosophy, the supernatural lip and cheek tint in natural red, for a tinge of crimson for instant "repair."

The best pick-me-up to combat back-to-school stress doesn't have to involve a lengthy, fussy ritual


SHU Uemura Boutique Birthday offering—Aura Spectra Palette

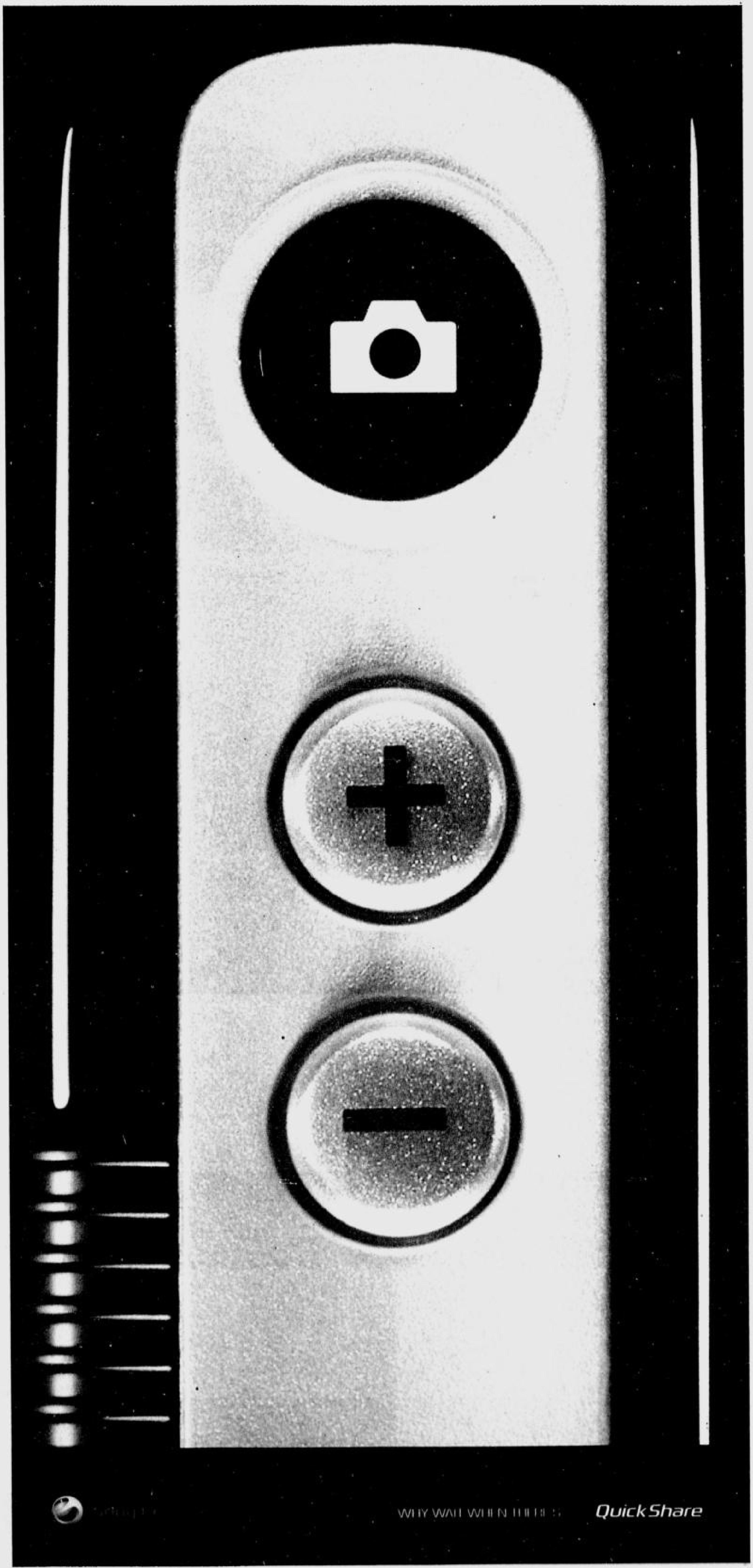
Get a hair boost with a deep-conditioning treatment, especially if you don't have time for a daily shampoo-and-conditioner ritual. If you're a big fan of the Kerastase Oleo-Relax hair care line, you're sure to love their new in-salon "shock therapy" for the hair—Oleo Relax Smoothing Concentrated Oil. Avocado oil and amino acids smoothen each and every strand of your hair, leaving it so manageable and shiny it might be distracting to the guys behind you. Visit a L'Oreal Salon and get this treatment quick before real school work begins.

For a real glow that's hard to beat, get yourself a set of Shu Uemura's adorable limited-edition Boutique Birthday offering, available this month. For a quick beauty boost, dust on Aura Spectra loose powder on your cheekbones for instant pixie appeal. Coat your pucker with Aura Spectra's lollipop-pink Liquid Lip for a just-kissed, natural-enough-for-class look.

Go all out and paint your nails in colors with the nonstop shine of metal! Watch out for L'Oreal Chrome Shine, glam nail lacquer that will make you want to use your *manos* all day. Impress the whole school with fingers and toes as brilliant as your wit.

L'Oreal is available at PCX and leading department stores nationwide; VMV Hypoallergenics at Watson's; Philosophy at Beauty Bar; Shu Uemura at Rustan's Mqkati

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com



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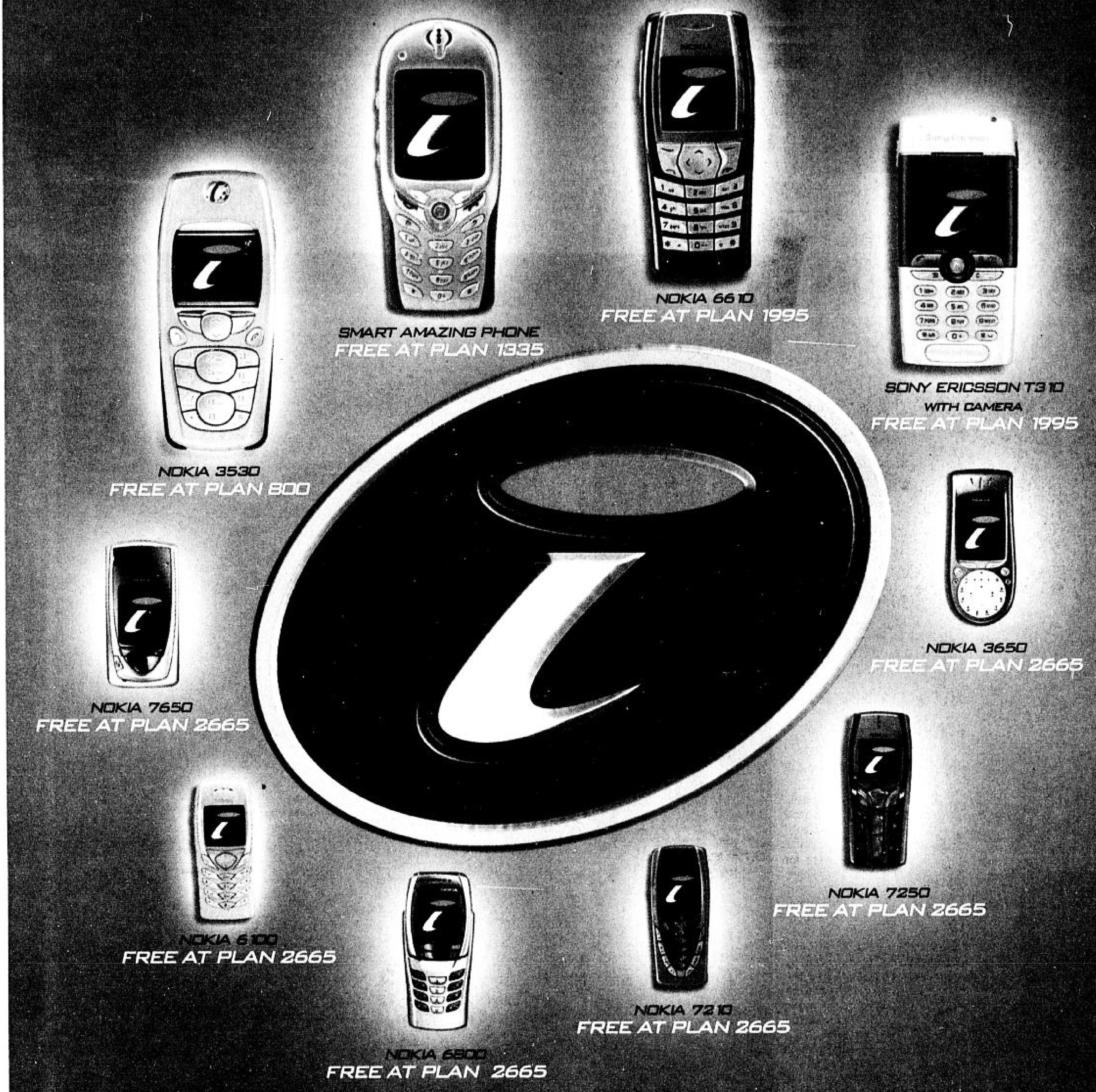

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MODEL	RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)						
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SMART Amazing Phone	19,500	17,700	9,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T310	6,700	4,700	3,500	2,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T310 (with camera)	8,300	6,300	5,000	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610	12,500	10,000	9,000	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610 (w/ camera & headset)	15,500	14,000	12,000	6,500	2,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100	16,000	14,500	12,000	7,000	2,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100 (w/ camera & headset)	19,000	17,000	15,500	10,000	4,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210	17,200	15,200	14,000	8,500	3,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210 (w/ camera & headset)	20,400	18,300	17,000	11,800	6,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3650	17,900	16,000	14,800	9,200	3,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6800	18,000	16,000	14,700	9,300	3,800	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7250	20,100	18,200	16,800	11,400	5,800	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7650	21,700	19,700	18,400	12,900	7,500	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson P800	31,800	30,000	28,600	23,200	17,500	10,000	FREE
Nokia 8910i	31,000	29,000	27,500	24,000	17,000	10,000	FREE

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addict	500	600	800	1335	1995	2665	3500
Monthly Service Fee	P500	P600	P800	P1,335	P1,995	P2,665	P3,500
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

In addition [illegible] Minutes, your Addict Mobile plan also includes Addict Credits for SMS, MMS and GPRS usage. Now you can enjoy your interests without exceeding your budget!

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Addict Credits	P500	P300	P450	P550	P700	P850	P950
SMS Messaging	P1.00						
MMS Messaging	P5.00						
SMS Info On Demand	P2.50						
MMS Info On Demand	P5.00						
MMS Personalization	P15.00						
GPRS (per kb)	P0.25						

Your Addict Credits allow you to send, access or download at no extra charge. Should you exceed your Addict Credit limit, you will be charged fees that correspond to the services you availed. A detailed breakdown will appear in your billing statement.

Note:
1. The Monthly Service Fee (MSF) is inclusive of VAT & FCA (Foreign Currency Adjustment).
2. Free Minute allocation will cover calls made from Addict Mobile to SMART, Addict Mobile to other GSM operators and Addict Mobile to non-NDD landline.
3. Free Text allocation will cover text messages sent to Addict Mobile cellphones, SMART cellphones, Talk 'N Text cellphones and other local networks.
4. All plans are covered by a 24-month contract. Pre-termination fees apply.
5. For new subscribers and switchers, bring the ff requirements (Original copy preferred):
   - Valid ID (Driver's License, Company ID, Passport, PRC ID, Major Credit Card w/ Photo, etc.)
   - Proof of Billing Address (Latest Billing Statement e.g. Utility Bills, Credit Card Bills or Cable Subscription Bills, etc.)
   - Financial Documents (Latest copy of any of the ff: ITR, Bank Statement or Certification)
   - For switchers: Last 2 months' non-SMART billing statement.

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at addictmobile@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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LIFESTYLE

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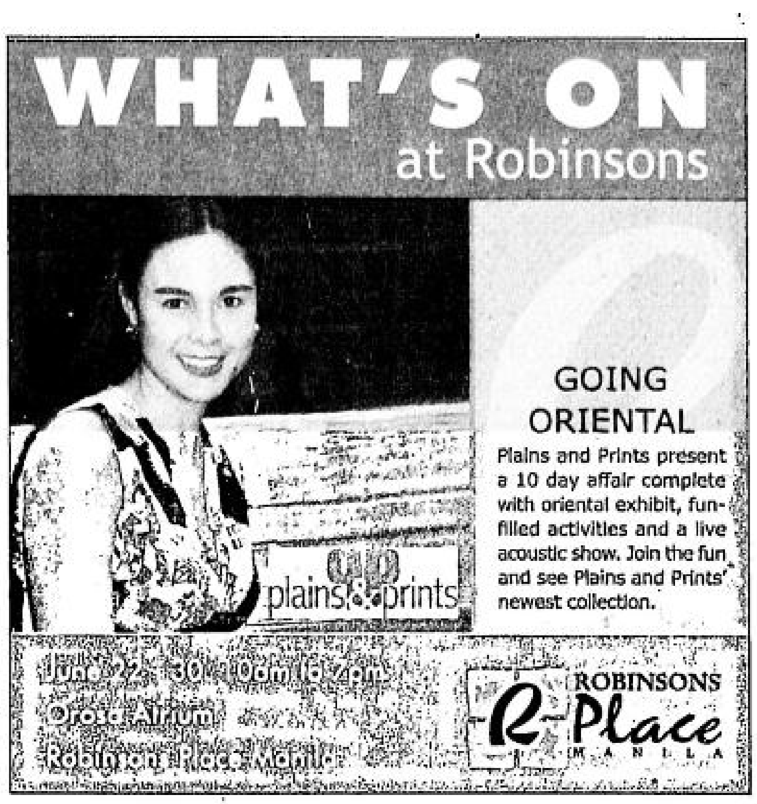
They're bolder, stronger, funnier, and offscreen have become the best of friends

CHARLIE, can you handle this? The Angels shake their booty.



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Robinsons Place Manila

ROBINSONS Place MANILA

2BU! EXCLUSIVE

The Angels are back, and how!

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

SANTA MONICA, California—They are butt naked. They kick ass. They weld. They fly. They do motocross racing, wu-shu, kung-fu, heck, even burlesque in a giant martini glass!

Yes, Charlie's Angels are back, and they are bolder, stronger, funnier, and more comfortable with each other. We interviewed them at the lovely Hotel Casa del Mar on Santa Monica beach.

After watching Columbia Pictures' "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," the sequel to the blockbuster action-comedy, we were convinced that director McG has outdone himself and that the three leading ladies have shown that life is too short to be taken too seriously. So they have fun, fun, fun!

The offscreen friendship of the three ladies is so infectious that the movie actually mirrors the genuineness of their relationship with one another.

So forget those rumors that they are bickering, backbiting and fighting offscreen. These ladies arrived at the hotel laughing and giggling, sharing private jokes and finishing each other's sentences. They shared secrets during the interview, laughed and blushed, vigorously defended each other, kidded one another, and hugged and kissed each other.

We seemed like we were outsiders enjoying the unfolding of this vibrant and warm camaraderie between the three that it almost felt like a sin to interrupt their precious private moments with each other.

Their outfits bespoke of their unique personalities: Lucy Liu in a spaghetti-strapped, sexy blue and white-striped dress, Cameron Diaz in a flimsy white top, a brown scarf and denims, and Drew Barrymore in a black beret, brown jacket, brown scarf, pants and boots.

Do they always go out together?

"Yeah, we go to movies, museums," said the bubbly Cameron. "We live life the way we want it," added the nonchalant Drew. "And we always try to do something fun and exciting," chirped in Lucy.

Then the three suddenly burst into giggles until Cameron turned red, Lucy covered her mouth to avoid spilling the water she just sipped and Drew hit Cameron on her shoulder.

Do they kick ass, too, in real life?

"I used to get into fights at least once a week with this boy when I was in elementary school," Cameron shared. "Now I realize why he keeps coming back for more," she said, laughing. "I keep telling this boy, 'Why don't you leave me alone? How many times do you want me to kick your ass?'" The Angels then guffawed.

Do they try to satisfy the male fantasies in the movie by including sexy scenes like the skimpily clad girls doing the car wash? Isn't that like betraying women instead of empowering them?

"No we didn't consciously try to satisfy male fantasies in the movie," Lucy said. "And instead of betraying women, we are portraying them. If a woman is smart and strong and she is aware of her sexuality, that doesn't mean that she

THE ANGELS/ D3

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MALATE ☎ 521.8143 — FAT 16 RAB 4 — NO ENTRANCE FEE
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BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268 — ZEST STREETLIFE — NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735 — SOUTH EDGE P R P — NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429 — VERSE 2 3RD DEGREE — NO ENTRANCE FEE
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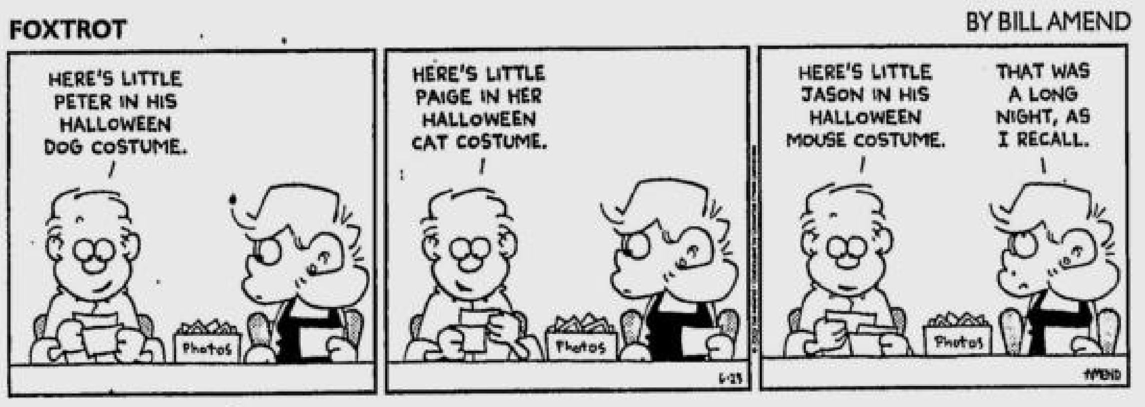
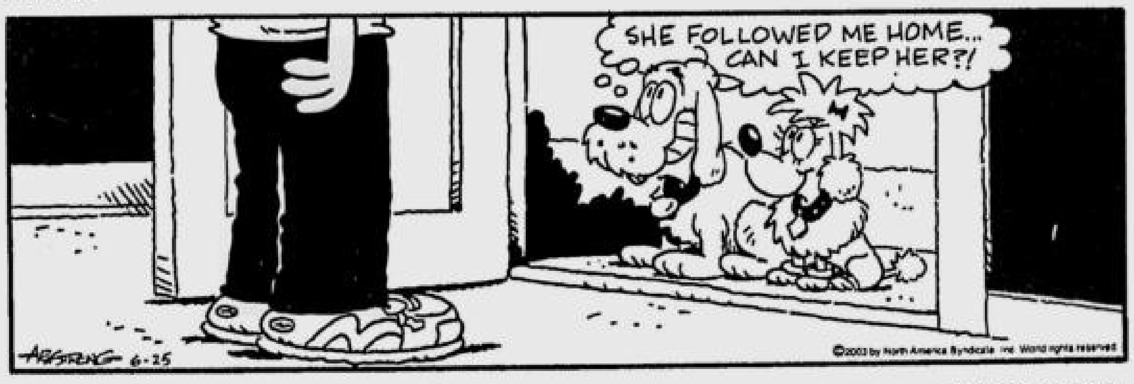
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HERE'S LITTLE PETER IN HIS HALLOWEEN DOG COSTUME.
Photos
HERE'S LITTLE PAIGE IN HER HALLOWEEN CAT COSTUME.
HERE'S LITTLE JASON IN HIS HALLOWEEN MOUSE COSTUME.
THAT WAS A LONG NIGHT, AS I RECALL.
AMEND

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SHE FOLLOWED ME HOME... CAN I KEEP HER?!
ARMSTRONG 6-25

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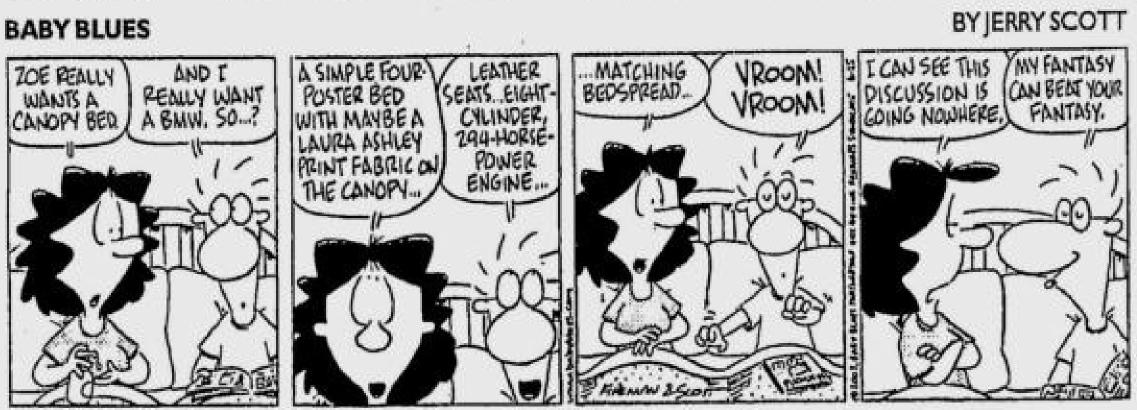
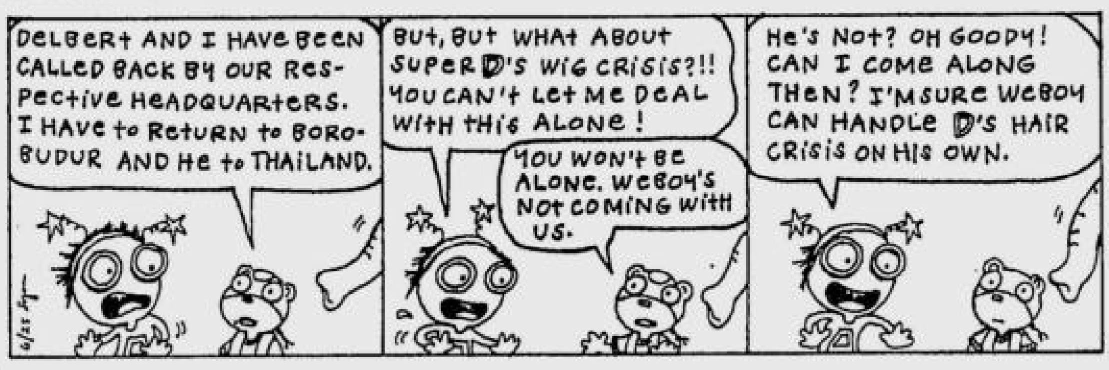
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE REALLY WANTS A CANOPY BED.
AND I REALLY WANT A BMW. SO...?
A SIMPLE FOUR-POSTER BED WITH MAYBE A LAURA ASHLEY PRINT FABRIC ON THE CANOPY...
LEATHER SEATS...EIGHT-CYLINDER, 294-HORSE-POWER ENGINE...
...MATCHING BEDSPREAD...
VROOM! VROOM!
I CAN SEE THIS DISCUSSION IS GOING NOWHERE.
MY FANTASY CAN BEAT YOUR FANTASY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DELBERT AND I HAVE BEEN CALLED BACK BY OUR RESPECTIVE HEADQUARTERS. I HAVE TO RETURN TO BOROBUDUR AND HE TO THAILAND.
BUT, BUT WHAT ABOUT SUPER D'S WIG CRISIS?!! YOU CAN'T LET ME DEAL WITH THIS ALONE!
YOU WON'T BE ALONE. WEBOY'S NOT COMING WITH US.
HE'S NOT? OH GOODY! CAN I COME ALONG THEN? I'M SURE WEBOY CAN HANDLE D'S HAIR CRISIS ON HIS OWN.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a perceptive imagination. Above all, whatever you do, you're original. You use your intuition and empathy for your environment with purpose. Because you are a visionary, you are often ahead of your time. Don't be afraid to let go of things this year to make room for new things to enter.
Birthdate of: Lucy Benjamin, actress; George Orwell, writer; Michael Sabatino, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You must be aware of yourself and how you communicate to others today. Don't let hidden resentments or tension flare up and cause difficulties. It's always best to keep your friends.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You love beautiful things, and today you cannot resist buying something in particular. You want it; you must have it; and therefore, you're making plans to get it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Beware the green-eyed monster—jealousy. Do not let your insecurities or subconscious impulses cause you to say something you will later regret.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): One of two things might happen today: The intensity of a flirtation at work could surprise you, or you will feel compelled to make reforms on the job.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): A powerful new friend could come into your life today. This will be someone who influences you quite strongly. (Be careful not to be attracted to someone whom you know is not good for you.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your success could cause jealousy or resentment on the part of someone else. Nevertheless, this does not lessen your success or reflect on you at all. You have earned your rewards.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your desire for freedom or escape from routine and obligations is strong today. Indulge this need by doing something different and exploring your world in a new way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You could receive something that is owed to you today. You have been working for a long time for this recognition. Now it has arrived.

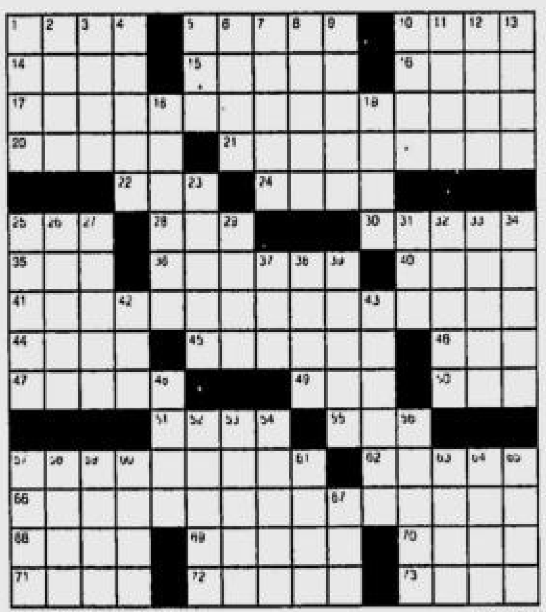
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Ignore obscure conflicts that arise between you and partners or close friends. Irrational feelings are at the root of it all. Pay them no heed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You want to make improvements at work because you believe in your ideas. Why not first win others over to your way of thinking?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A powerful new romance could enter your life today. Be careful not to be led astray because someone appears to be intriguing in a mysterious way. Trust your common sense.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You want to make improvements at home today. In all likelihood, these improvements will be for the better. Generally, a good idea can sell itself.

DAILY CROSSWORD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68 69 70
71 72 73

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
6/25/03

ACROSS
1 Table support
5 Punter
10 Facet
14 Light tan
15 Rub out
16 Tilled soil
17 NRC concern?
20 Cloth for drying
21 From the top
22 Grave inscription
24 Since
25 Three-way junction
28 Kilmer of "The Doors"
30 Chewy candy
35 Eggs
36 Lifts the spirits of
40 Walloping wind
41 TVA concern
44 Work on manuscripts
45 Swift forte
46 Before, before
47 Of the kidneys
49 Crow's cry
50 Hibernation chamber
51 Autobahn auto
55 Classroom favorite
57 Some three-digit numbers
62 Kitchen gadget
66 SBA concern?
68 Hand-cream additive
69 Shrewd
70 Target on the green
71 Dame Myra
72 Wear away
73 Just got by

DOWN
1 Riga resident
2 Return caller?
3 Developed
4 Terrific!
5 Church bench
6 Sandwich cookie
7 Insect stage
8 Slalom turns
9 Active or rocket lead-in
10 Rug type
11 Wee bit
12 Mazar of "Civil Wars"
13 Place of bliss
18 Writer Goldsmith
19 Handle of a weapon
23 __ Hills, IL
25 Sears, for one
26 Skirt
27 Dine at home
29 Kilauea flow
31 Time of life
32 Washed-out
33 Fiery signal
34 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
37 Vietnamese holiday
38 Ambler or Clapton
39 Thong
42 Seventh Greek letter
43 Ax wielders
48 Focal points
52 __ de Leon
53 Candice Bergen's father
54 Fire
56 Ten-percent donation
57 Oriental nursemaid
58 Enrage
59 Genesis character
60 Fruity quaffs
61 Rid oneself of
63 Child's profession?
64 __ Stanley Gardner
65 Walter __ Army Medical Center
67 Heart of a hurricane

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	H		R	O	B	E	S		S	T	O	V	E
P	E	A		I	T	A	L	O		T	A	H	O	E
A	P	T		C	H	E	S	T	E	R	T	O	W	N
C	A	T	S		O	R	I	O	L	E	S			
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L	O	B	E		A	E	D	E	S		E	N	C	E
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M	E	O	W	S		S	Y	R	U	P		E	R	E

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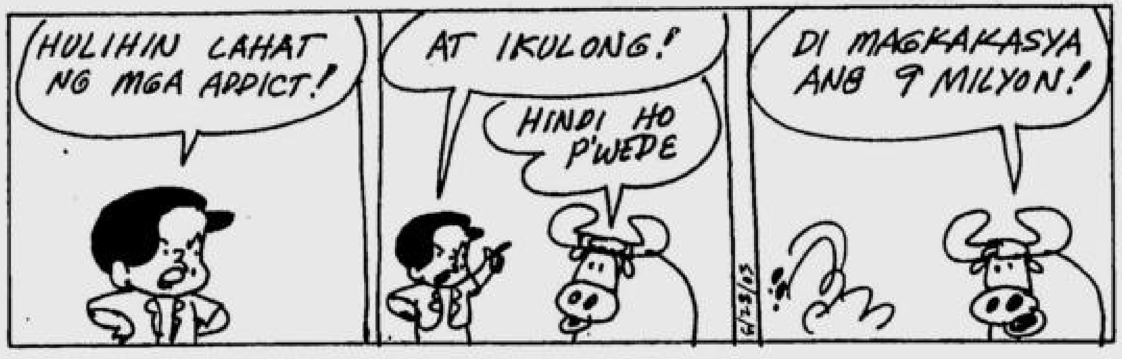
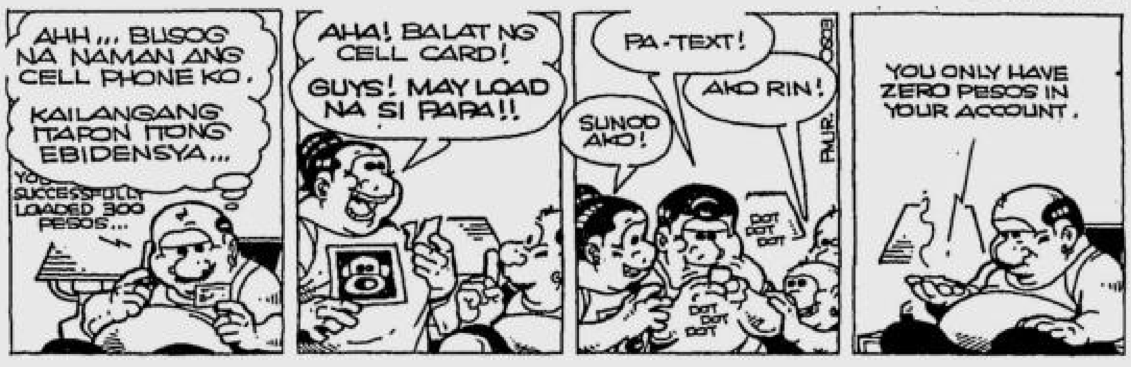
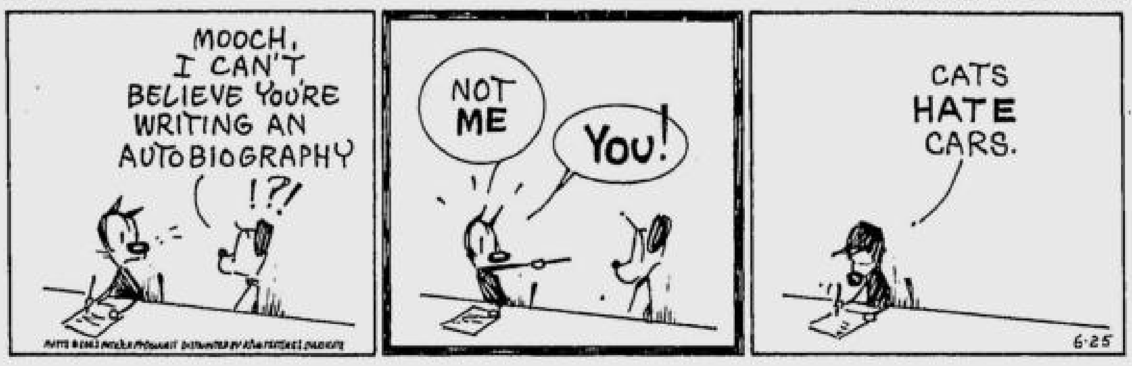
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HULIHIN LAHAT NG MGA ADDICT!
AT IKULONG!
HINDI HO P'WEDE
DI MAGKAKASYA ANG 9 MILYON!
6/25/03

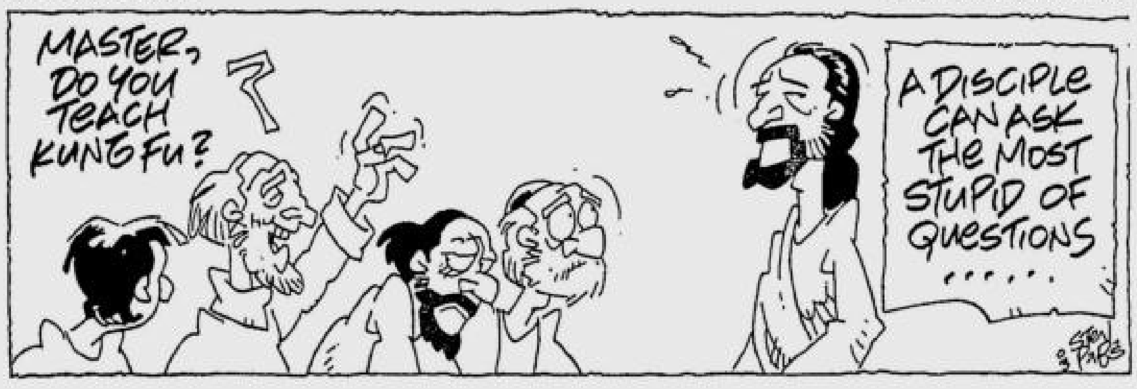
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AHH... BUSOG NA NAMAN ANG CELL PHONE KO.
KAILANGANG ITAPON ITONG EBIDENSYA...
YOU SUCCESSFULLY LOADED 300 PESOS...
AHA! BALAT NG CELL CARD!
GUYS! MAY LOAD NA SI PAPA!!
PA-TEXT!
SUNOD AKO!
AKO RIN!
DOT DOT DOT
DOT DOT DOT
PM.JR. 2003
YOU ONLY HAVE ZERO PESOS IN YOUR ACCOUNT.

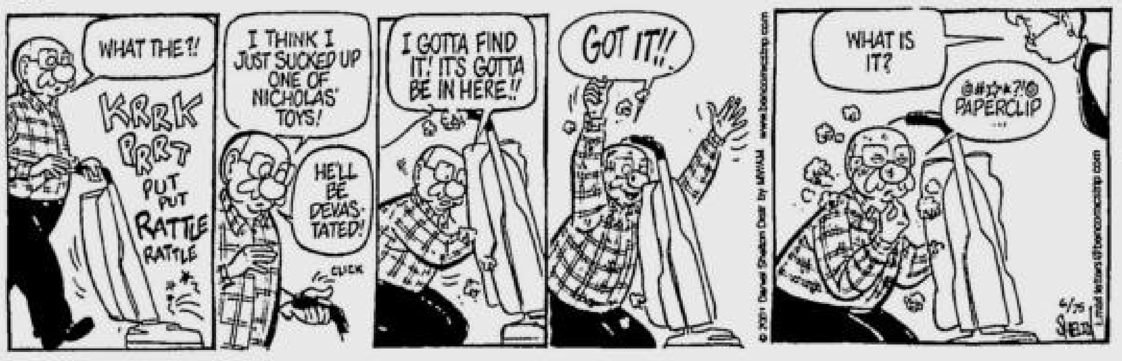
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE WRITING AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
!?!
NOT ME
You!
CATS HATE CARS.
6-25

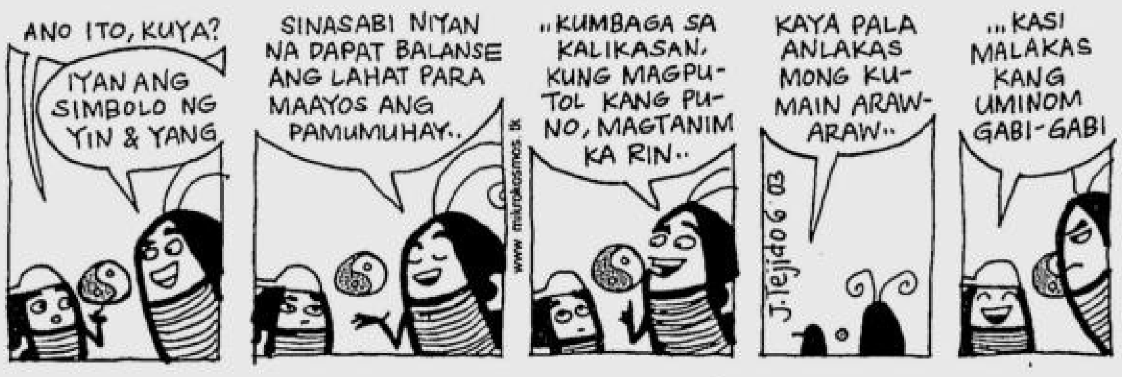
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MASTER, DO YOU TEACH KUNG FU?
?
A DISCIPLE CAN ASK THE MOST STUPID OF QUESTIONS......
STEVEN PABS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT THE?!
KRRK PRRT PUT PUT RATTLE RATTLE
I THINK I JUST SUCKED UP ONE OF NICHOLAS' TOYS!
HE'LL BE DEVASTATED!
CLICK
I GOTTA FIND IT! IT'S GOTTA BE IN HERE!!
GOT IT!!
WHAT IS IT?
@#!☆*?!@ PAPERCLIP ...
www.bencomicstrip.com
6/25 SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO ITO, KUYA?
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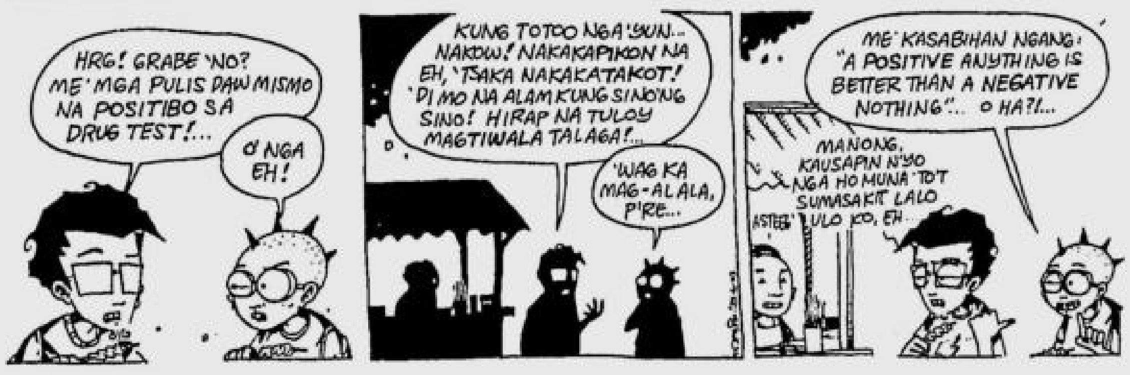
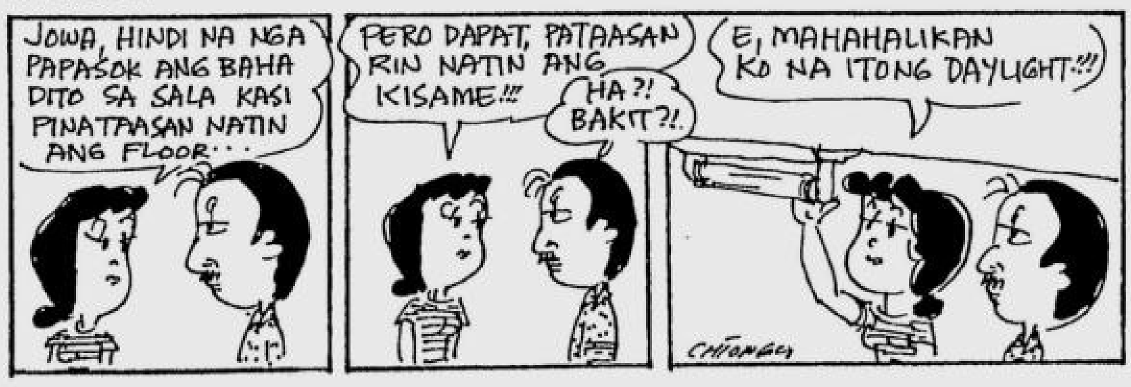
...KASI MALAKAS KANG UMINOM GABI-GABI

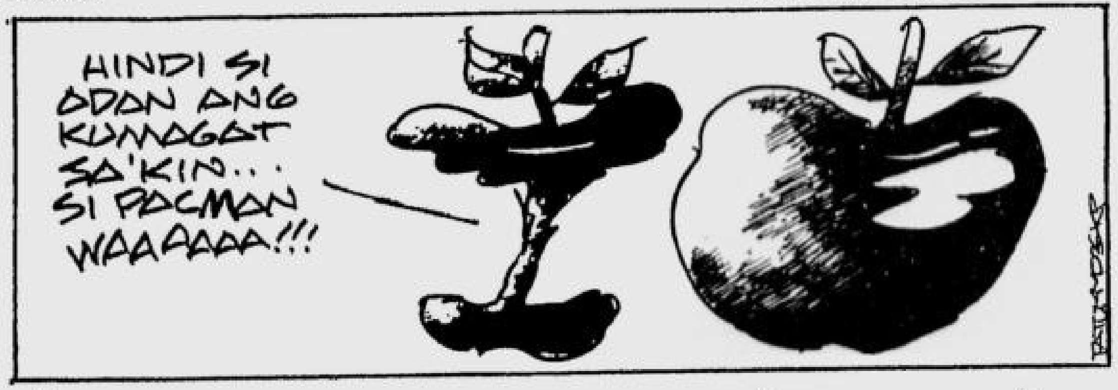
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HRG! GRABE 'NO? ME' MGA PULIS DAW MISMO NA POSITIBO SA DRUG TEST!...
O' NGA EH!
KUNG TOTOO NGA 'YUN.. NAKOW! NAKAKAPIKON NA EH, 'TSAKA NAKAKATAKOT! 'DI MO NA ALAM KUNG SINO'NG SINO! HIRAP NA TULOY MAGTIWALA TALAGA!...
'WAG KA MAG-ALALA, P'RE...
ME' KASABIHAN NGANG: "A POSITIVE ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN A NEGATIVE NOTHING"... O HA?!...
MANONG, KAUSAPIN N'YO NGA HO MUNA 'TO'T SUMASAKIT LALO ULO KO, EH...
ASTEG!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, HINDI NA NGA PAPASOK ANG BAHA DITO SA SALA KASI PINATAASAN NATIN ANG FLOOR...
PERO DAPAT, PATAASAN RIN NATIN ANG KISAME!!!
HA?! BAKIT?!.
E, MAHAHALIKAN KO NA ITONG DAYLIGHT!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HINDI SI ODON ANG KUMAGAT SA'KIN... SI PACMAN WAAAAAA!!!

BREAKDANCE BUDDIES. Greg Martin and posse at Pacha

INDEPENDANCE! Groove it, shake it, move it.

SHU STYLE. Tina Tinio and Jenni Epperson

OUT THE WINDOW. Tals Diaz, Tonio Hursh and Doran Sordo

TWELVE TIMES THREE. Liza and Elbert Cuenca with Rhett Eala

CHERRY BLOSSOM. Martin Lorenzo and Tina Montinola

STAR SEARCH. Marcel Crespo and Vina Morales

PEPPERED POSSE. DJ Montano, Ipe Cruz, Tina Tinio, Joji Dingcong and Pepper Teehankee

HELLO! Kitty Yoshida, Angelique Villaraza and Joel Ong.

STYLE FILES. Migs Rosales, Bea Valdes and Archie Rodriguez

DJ Juan Diaz pops the cherry at Pacha.

ABSINTHE MINDED. JR Isaac, Richie Santos, Christine San Diego and Morten Bremeloej

JM Rodriguez on a roll at Pacha

Let's choose freedom

It doesn't matter who started what. Scenesters should act—and quick!

Tim Yap

ENOUGH of articles chronicling who started what. We know our history. Save the self-congratulations for the retro-tribute issue.

Scenesters know fully well that the scene is constantly evolving. Movement is what it's all about at the moment. History is unfolding right before our very eyes. The best that those movers who love to claim that they "started-this-and-that" is to take some action—now.

Let variety be the spice of our life. For club scene promoters, let's not jump into the bandwagon mentality. Originality and a dash of creativity always attract the right mix of partyphiles.

Let us go back to doing it in the way we have always done it: enjoying the whole process of creating the event without regard for the bottom line profits.

If we feel we are getting trapped in a predictable rut, then by all means, let's break away from anything that will stunt our growth.

Choose freedom for a change.

Pop the cherry!

Talking about freedom, I heard the Pacha party of Big Fish (with Addict, Axe, Cuervo, Girbaud and Samsung V200, whew!) was—just like the film "Finding Nemo"—a big hit. (Big fish, get it?)

Don't doubt it at all. Pacha is one club that attracts such a tantalizing crew of partyphiles worldwide that any Pacha club you enter promises a promiscuous ride into gorgeous glam.

In Ibiza, Pacha resembles a giant mansion filled with a cornucopia of stylish and kitschily designed rooms given more life by different DJs. A balcony overlooking the whole Ibiza cityscape gives hardcore clubbers a chance to chill.

In Madrid, Pacha's double cherry logo hangs atop a theater-style club—an enormous hall with a stage where sexy go-go guys and gals frolic as breakdancers raise the roof on the dance floor.

Non-formula

In Manila, NBC Tent was spruced up with candelabras, red roses and the signature Pacha cherries hanging from the ceiling! DJ **TC** did a great warm-up for DJ **Juan Diaz,** who fired up and surprised the crowd with his bootleg mixes from Pink to Red Hot Chili Peppers. He also infused a lot of a cappella music into his house beats.

That's the trend now—getting it all wrong. The more unpredictable, the better. All rules set up by purist DJs have been shattered. It's a selfless way of dealing with it—more into your crowd than into yourself.

This non-formula provided by the Pacha crew surprised even the most jaded partyphiles in the crowd. More of these, please.

I heard BBC is bringing in Hotel Costes and Buddha Bar next month. So, there's an exciting season ahead for everyone.

Come one, come all

Steve Mills' hot Wednesday R&B nights have found a new home in Absinthe in Greenbelt.

Fridays have become the new frontier, with Restaurant 12 pioneering the efforts in lounge bliss from midnight onwards with **Andy Gray's** DJ posse. **Elbert Cuenca** is on a roll—even having designer-DJ **Rhett Eala** on the door, making it 12 times more "exclusive."

Nuvo just tapped NBK's stable (**Mano, David, Raji, Bombi** ,et al) for a NU-VOyage, also on Fridays.

Temple and Wasabi still manage to pack them all in with their music mix. Let's just hope the no-smoking rule in clubs gets implemented here as well.

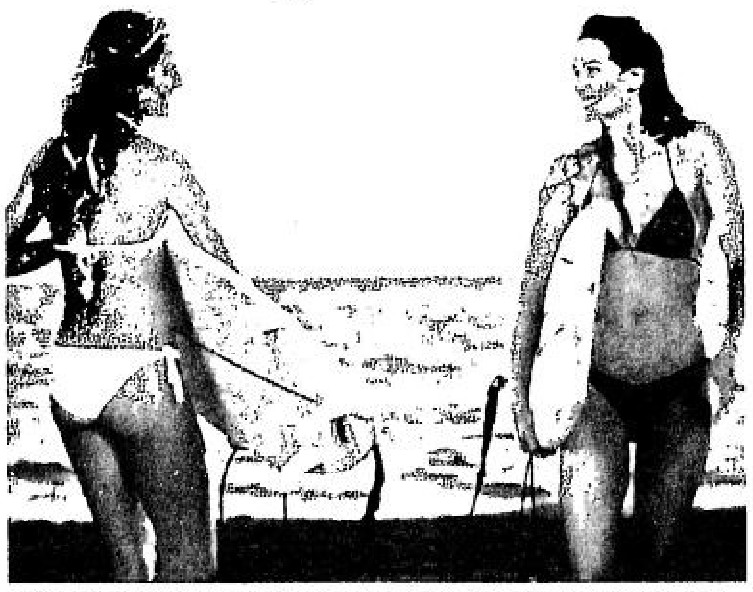
On Saturday, gays, straights, the bi-curious and the confused will hop "All Aboard the White Party—Pride 2003" street festival, which will have a rainbow coalition of DJs and showstopping acts.

Despite the cliche-ish naval/sailor theme, I'm sure Orosa-philes will kick major butt (pun not intended) to make sure this event will turn out to be a blast.

Everyone must come (pun not intended).

HOT BABES. Viva to Maui Taylor and Katya Santos

The Angels are back, and how!



CHARLIE'S Angel meets G.I. Jane. Surfer chicks Cameron Diaz and Demi Moore

From page D1

wants to be a Playboy bunny. She simply shows the world that she is feminine and that she can put lipstick on and still kick ass."

"I also think the reason that it (the sexiness) is 'tolerable' is because the Angels have a sense of humor," Drew added. "We can laugh at ourselves. I don't think a woman should be embarrassed just because she's sexy."

"We portray all aspects of being women, so we can be sexy, smart, strong and yet feminine. Like for example, I know that if I smile at the valet parking attendant and say hi, I know I can get my car faster (laughter) and I tip him. I just don't give him a smile. That's my appreciation for him for helping me," said Cameron.

"Women who have children can also be sexy and feminine," stressed Lucy. "Just because you have children doesn't mean that you cannot be

THE ANGELS/ D4

Party Full Throttle at the Megastrip

Performers

June 25 9:00 pm Charlie's Angels II Street Party
Bldg. B

June 27 7:30 pm Girl Power Launch
Bldg. B

June 28 8:30 pm Pinikpikan
Bldg. A

SM MEGAMALL
Megamall Walkway,
Julia Vargas Road,
Ortigas Center

Joey 92.3 Rhythms

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Promo is from May 16 to August 15, 2003.
See poster for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1161, Series of 2003

HenySison

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 20-day hands-on Essential Cooking Series is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking and baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Classes begin on **July 12-November 29, 2003.** Classes are held every **Saturdays** from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING AND PASTRY SERIES: This 26-day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurant. Classes begin on **August 14 - November 14, 2003.** Classes are held every **Thursdays & Fridays,** from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.

ITALY: A CULINARY TRAVEL ADVENTURE (September 2003). Join us for this exciting 7-day tour of Italy's Lombardy Region.

For more information call **726-5316 and 412-7792** and ask for Lirio or Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

July 1 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. P1,500 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison
*Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

July 1 (Tuesday) 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. P1,500 QUICK BREADS by: Heny Sison
*Apple Walnut Loaf, Banana Nut Bread, Zucchini Bread, Apple-Cinnamon Muffins, Dark Moist Bran Muffins and Carrot Muffins

July 2 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon P1,500 COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Aileen Anastacio, Chef / Food Consultant, owner of C'est Si Bon and Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy.
*If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Recipes: Caffè Latte, Caffè Mocha, Caffè Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato and Espresso con Panna. Make fun toppings and garnishes and master the art of coffee making

July 2 (Wednesday) 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. P1,200 DESSERT COFFEES by: Chef Aileen Anastacio,
*Learn how to make a variety of iced coffee drinks; a whole new category of ways to enjoy espresso; Recipes: Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road, Mocha Malt and more!

July 4 (Friday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P2,500 BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP I by: Jill Sandique, Chef / Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School
*Brioche, Egg Pan de Sal, Anadama Bread, Cinnamon Coffee Cake, Multigrain Bread, Pullman, American Black and Braided Loaf

July 5 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. P2,500 FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, Food Consultant of various Italian restaurant all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy
*There is simply no comparison between homemade hand-formed pasta and the store bought stuff. Homemade is not only tastier but a lot easier to make than you think. Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine green & black, stuffings for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni. Sauces for lasagna, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccini al Frutti di Mare. **Demonstration with student participation.**

July 7 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. P2,000 CHEESECAKE WORKSHOP by: Jill Sandique *No Frills Cheesecake, New York Cheesecake, Alsatian Cheesecake, Italian Ricotta Cheesecake, Triple Chocolate Cheesecake & Easy Oreo Cheesecake

July 8 (Tuesday) 1:00-5:00 p.m. P1,500 JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes) by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants.
*Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce.

July 9 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. P2,000 HEARTY SOUPS & CASSEROLES by: Chef Jill Sandique, *Fish Stew with Aioli and Rouille, Cassoulet, Choucroute Garnie, Manhattan Clam Chowder, Chili Con Carne and Bouillabaisse

July 11 (Friday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P2,500 PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli
*In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base, preparation, set up pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gibiana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. **Demonstration with student participation.**

July 14-15 (Monday- Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P4,000 CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison, Learn the basic of cake decorating, icing color, star, shell, dots & outline borders; the rose, figure piping: clown & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. **Full participation.**

July 16 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. P1,500 EASY BAKING by: Chef Jill Sandique
*Chocolate Beehives, Butter Cupcake, Custard Chiffon, Blueberry Cheesecake, Mango Walnut Torte & Queen Elizabeth Cake

July 16 (Wednesday) 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. P1,700 THE MANY WAYS TO COOK CHICKEN by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, Citrus-Ginger Grilled Chicken, Chicken Cacciatore, Chicken Inasal, Thai Style Grilled Chicken, Roasted Chicken w/ Lemon, Garlic & Rosemary, Buffalo Wings & Chicken Bulgogi

July 18 (Friday) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. P1,500 KOREAN COOKING I by: Chef Young Hee Kim Park, Owner of Sila Korean Restaurant and Food Consultant to various Korean Restaurants in Metro Manila *Beef Bulgogi (Barbeque: Tenderloin & Ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi (Barbeque: Chicken thigh), Pork Bulgogi (Pork Liempo), Chap Chae (Noodle: Korean noodle, mushrooms, vegetable, beef or pork) Mi Yuk Guk (Soup: seaweed, beef or tahong) & Four kinds of appetizer (Dilis, Peanut, Spinach & Bean Sprouts)

July 21 (Monday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P2,500 DOUGHNUT WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes, Chef / Food Consultant, owner of Café Cornucopia, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School Recipes: Sugar Honey-Glazed, Caramel Pecan, Chocolate Nut, Mango Glazed, Chocolate Bavarian, Blueberry Filled, Strawberry Filled, Apple Filled, Twist Cinnamon Sugar & Beignets (French Doughnuts)

July 25 (Friday) 9:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. P2,500 PIE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique
*Coconut Cream Pie, Banana Walnut Tart, Lemon Meringue Tartlets, Chocolate Banana Cream Pie, Apple Custard Tart & Blueberry Pie with Crumb Topping

July 28-31 (Monday-Thursday) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P7,000 CAKE DECORATING COURSE III by: Heny Sison, * Learn how to create a tiered wedding cake, embellishing borders, stringwork, filigree, fancy flowers, color flow on cookies, sugar molding, lattice for the side of the cake and tiered cake ideas. The grand finale to course 3 is an impressive wedding cake. **Full participation.**

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
Nestle Building, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

July 2 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,500 BROWNIES & BARS
*Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center & Butterscotch Bars

July 16 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. P1,700 MORE CHOCOLATE DESSERTS (New Class!)
*Black Magic, Chocolate Chestnut Cake, Chocolate Roll, Othello, Chocolate Meringue Cake & Chocolate Tart

July 21 (Monday) 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. P2,500 TART WORKSHOP
*Macapuno Tarts, Cashew Tart, Mango Tart, Pili Tart and Egg Tart

TUITION FEE Includes ingredients. Reservation is required. Kindly bring an apron for workshop / full participation classes.

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The Angels are back, and how!

From page D3

sexy anymore. It doesn't mean that you cannot wear cute clothes because you have three children. That to me is not right at all. Like, I can be diligent at my job and still be feminine without wearing power suits."

"My mom, for example," shared Cameron, "worked all her life and successfully balanced career, marriage and motherhood, and she's still so hot! In other words, we are telling women that they can be powerful, intelligent and still have love lives."

Have they changed since the first "Charlie's Angels"?

"Personally or professionally?" Drew asked. "I change every day," Cameron butted in.

"By plastic surgery?" a journalist asked.

The Angels burst into laughter. "Oh yeah, that plastic surgery question has come up all day," said Cameron while patting her cheeks.

"Seriously," said Lucy, "I met Cameron and Drew for the first time on the first filming day of the first 'Angels' movie and up to this day, the three of us have remained the best of friends. We have all grown so much closer that we support each other, we care for one another and this can easily be seen in the second movie. In fact, we even weld together!"

Producers Nancy Juvonen and Leonard Goldberg revealed that Lucy was burned in the welding scene.

"Yes, my blouse got burned," admitted Lucy, "but that was the only mishap that happened to me."

"Well, I got an ember on my butt," added Drew.

Do they think they are getting the right kind of roles?

Drew paused for a moment and said, "I had this great moment when I watched a movie recently. Before the movie, they showed the trailers of 'Gangs of New York' [which starred Cameron], then 'Confessions of A Dangerous Mind' [which featured Drew] and then 'Chicago' [which also starred Lucy]. I felt so good. I realize people were noticing us and giving us the opportunities to do interesting movies."

She continued, "So that was really a wonderful moment for me because I realized we are all working with extraordinary filmmakers and we are making decisions from the heart and not for financial reasons or advancement in careers. Other people are giving us these opportunities to work with them and so I was so happy for all of us. Life is good."

After playing a dominatrix opposite Mel Gibson in "Payback," does Lucy feel she's been typecast in strong, aggressive roles?

"Let me just clarify something," she said. "When I started in the business, there was really very little opportunity for Asian women to get into Hollywood. I found myself in the same room with the same girls with the same accents and the same roles. When you start out, you try to take the opportunities that come your way and make the most of them. The dominatrix role was such a strong role that people identified me with that, and I have done that movie way before I did Ling Woo in 'Ally Mcbeal' who was a fresh, funny, quick-witted and very strong character.

"Sometimes," she continued, "when you do your job really well, people get confused with who you really are and what you are and they identify you with the characters you portray. Although I portray these characters, this doesn't mean that I don't want a man to open the door for me, to order me dinner, to whisper sweet nothings in my ear, to be romantic, or to light a candle. I try to separate myself from that.

"When I go out on a date with somebody, I don't make a move. If he wants to kiss me, then he has to make the move. I would be too embarrassed to make the move."

"Not me!" confessed Drew, and the room erupted in laughter. "If I had a good time, I'd say, 'Come over here, baby!'" (More laughter)

If you were given a choice to cast a non-Hollywood person as an Angel, whom would you choose? Producers Juvonen and Goldberg chose Chelsea Clinton.

"Oh yeah, she would be fantastic!" said Drew. "There are so many people in my life who could be one because they are smart, confident and good," added Lucy. "My granny would make a good Angel!" blurted out Cameron. "She could still kick some butt!"

After going around the world to promote the movie—Japan, Australia, with England, France and Mexico next—are the Angels headed for the third "Angels" movie?

"Let the public decide!" they chorused.

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"Hindi na kami pahuhuling
makisalamuha sa lipunan,
Bagkus ay taas-noong makibaka sa
masalimuot na kabihasnan."

Klamba Nat'l HS, Saranggani
See Story Page 5

SPECIAL REPORT

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN INSTEAD OF WATCHING IT HAPPEN

Roxas: Nationwide computer distribution to bridge digital divide

The government's program to bridge the digital divide between the public and private schools all over the country got another boost with the recent approval by the Japanese government of a P584-million grant for the second phase of the successful PCs for Public High School Project spearheaded by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

This time, DTI has expanded its coverage to include local government units.

"Our government also recognizes the local government units' need to be in the mainstream of IT development," Roxas said citing R.A. 8792 or the eCommerce Act of 2000 which mandates the e-commerce readiness of all government agencies. Thus Roxas negotiated that part of the grant be allotted for local governments so "they too can utilize IT in upgrading their capabilities for local governance and in the delivery of their services."

"The LGUs can utilize the computer technologies in automating their key administrative systems such as business registration and licensing, real property, tax administration, treasury operations and management information," Roxas said. Only 170 of the close to 1,500 LGUs have access to computer technologies under existing government computerization programs for LGUS, Roxas cited.

"We have to keep on investing on IT. The continuous development and upgrading of our human resources is the key in our ability to maintain our competitiveness in a knowledge economy," Roxas said.

And, through DTI's PCP project, the Philippine public school system had steadily been gaining inroads.

"With the second phase of this project, an additional 200,000 public high school students will be given basic training in information and communications technology," Roxas said. "This will certainly boost the Philippines' ICT capacity and we expect that its impact will be felt within the immediate future in terms of producing more public school students who are equipped with sufficient computer skills," he said,

"The PCPS2 aims to build on the success of the PCPS1 by further reducing the computer backlog in public high schools," Roxas said. "While the first phase of the project expanded IT access in secondary schools from 28% to 54%, about 2,345 public high schools still remain without access to computer technologies," he said. About 25% have access to electricity, and are thus ready for the introduction of IT technologies.

"In ARMM region alone, there are still close to 70 high schools without facilities for computer education," Roxas cited. Furthermore, Roxas said there is a need to revisit those schools which have received computers under the 1997 computerization program of the Department of Education as these facilities may have to be upgraded. Meanwhile, schools with large student population will have to be given additional facilities to improve the student-to-computer ratio.

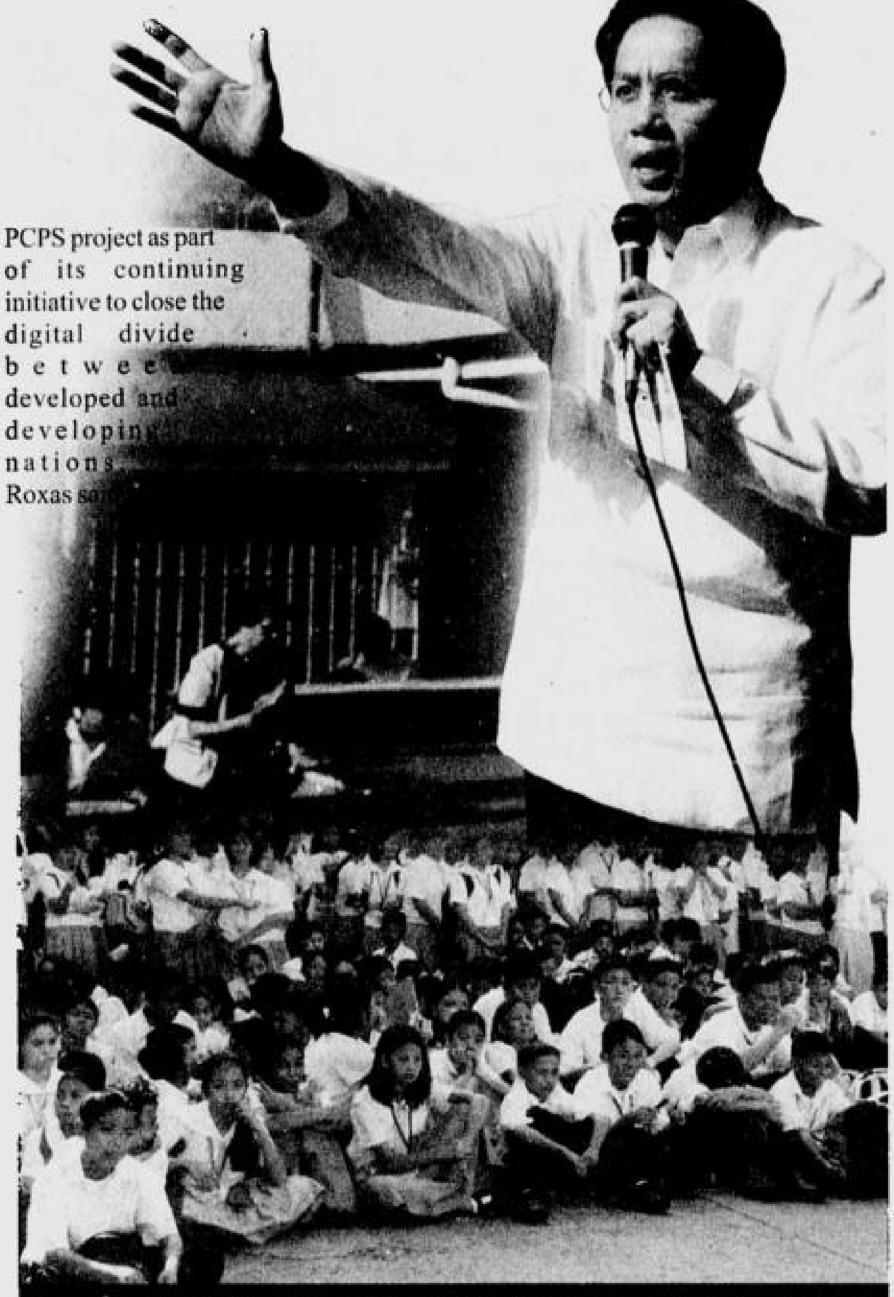
"Since we started this project, many schools have expressed interest to become part of the program, and their communities have pledged to provide the needed facilities and resources to support and sustain the project," Roxas said.

Under the PCPS 2, another 10,000 computers will be distributed to 900 public high schools and 250 municipalities. In addition to the 200,000 students, another 18.900 teachers will be trained on IT-based education while 1,250 municipal employees will eb trained on automation of LGU administrative systems.

Each of the recipient schools of PCPS 2 will receive 10 personal computers equipped with essential computer peripherals. Each municipality will have four personal computers, a printer and a server.

"We have to sustain the efforts laid by the PCPS project and build on its gains to concretize the country's vision of further developing our IT human resources and making IT as the country's engine of growth in the new economy," Roxas said.

"And we are very grateful that the government of Japan has chosen our PCPS project as part of its continuing initiative to close the digital divide betwee developed and developin nations Roxas sa



Secretary Mar Roxas stresses the importance of Information Technology to students of Ramon Magsaysay High School in Manila during the turnover ceremonies for the school's computer laboratory.

Japanese Funding

NPGA: Aid for Structural Adjustment

Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid for Economic Structural Adjustment Support (NPGA) Fund is the principal funder of PCPS.

The Government of Japan (GOJ) first established NPGA in 1987 under its Urgent Economic Measures, as part of its commitment to help developing countries carry out structural improvements in their economies.

The first commitment of Japan was for US$500-M at the Venice Summit; US$600-M, at the Arch Summit in 1989; and, US$700-M at the Munich Economic Summit in 1991. After 1996, Japan's NPGA commitments have been for single-year periods.

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Students of Pilot Opportunity School of Fisheries in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi hones their IT skills via the computers provided to their school through DTI's Personal Computers for Public Schools (PCPS) project.

Keeping competitive edge in the knowledge economy

The remarkable thing about today's information technology is how it brings people together in the global village with nothing more than a few clicks of the mouse.

With the advent of IT, a new knowledge economy has spurred growth and advancement in even the farthest regions of the world.

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas has been at the forefront of promoting the country's growing IT-based services such as call centers, business process outsourcing, medical transcriptions, animation and computer-aided designs.

"We are now in a knowledge economy and those who know and recognize, who can analyze and comprehend data and information will be the ones that will have better jobs, better earning potentials," he said.

"The Philippines has proven to be competitive with respect to other countries like India," Roxas said, citing the recent report of the Asian Call Centre, which reviewed 19 Asian countries, and concluded that the Philippines is the "most conducive and cost-effective site" for offshore call center operations.

A growing number of multinational companies have also chosen the Philippines as site for their business process outsourcing operations - that is, many of their accounting operations, engineering designs, and even software development are being done here.

"The potential of transforming our country into an IT-hub for the region can only be limited by our ability to train our army of computer-savvy workforce. And we need to do it fast," Roxas said.

Thus when there was an opportunity more than three years ago to tap the Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) program of Japan, Sec. Roxas batted for the nationwide deployment of computer laboratory packages to public schools.

The PCPS was made possible through a P600 million grant extended in 2001 from the Counterpart Funds of the Government of Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid.

"Through this assistance, the Government of Japan hopes to make a great contribution for the development of information technology in the Philippines," the Japanese Embassy announced then.

"Through the project, about 300,000 students nationwide have gained competencies in information and communications technology, which have become a necessity in today's knowledge economy,' Roxas said.

DTI report to ODA shows PCPS project successful

Going by the initial feedback from recipient communities and local government units, the rollout of internet-ready computers nationwide under the Personal Computers for Public Schools (PCPS) project of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is undoubtedly a success. A quantitative analysis of the monitoring and review aspect of the project, including logged hours of computer usage, magnifies this success even more.

In a DTI report for the 11th Official Development Assistance (ODA) Portfolio Review, out of 328 schools all over Luzon, 109,648 students have already used the PC lab. An estimated 334 students per school spend an average of 2.15 hours per day for computer education, adding up to 440.75 total computer hours per school year. These 328 schools have registered 3,040 hours of e-lab usage per week in computer education alone or 10.75 average hours per week for their computer education subject. These translate to adequate computer training and IT-exposure of the students.

"Under the prevailing circumstances in the project implementation, the output of the project is outstanding," said Dita M. Maralit, PCPS Project Director.

Maralit explained the figures gathered from computer usage represent the extent of IT-exposure, not only of the students but also the community as a whole, since the use of computers was not restricted to the school. Although high school students remain as the main beneficiaries of the program, PCPS also aims to provide growing access for the community, including out of school youths (OSY), public and private employees, LGUs, NGOs, the Barangay Council, SK and others. In fact, community utilization was included in the projections of the PCPS, envisioning the school as a focal point for spreading computer knowledge and IT-awareness in the provinces down to the barangay levels.

Community involvement was also very evident during the course of the program. For the 328 schools in Luzon, 756 local partners in the community extended their counterpart support through cash donations totaling Php3,817,804, while another 472 groups and individuals donated in kind. This heightened cooperation and awareness within the barangay signals the readiness of the community to embrace new technologies for advancement, especially concerning the youth.

With these e-labs in place, the school and the surrounding barangays can use the computers for training and other administrative purposes. Such exposure prepares the youth and the community for IT-integration and enables them to cope with the demands of a growing knowledge-based economy.

So far, the outputs of the program have exceeded expectations, providing students and the community with concrete entry point to the information highway.

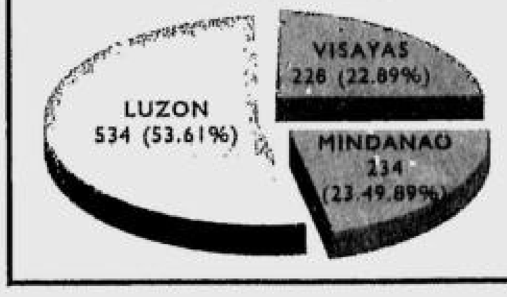
The initial data has shown the positive impact of the computer labs on the community. Hopefully, with proper maintenance and utilization, these e-labs will contribute to the overall economic and social development of the country.

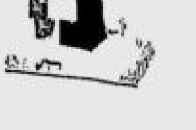
It is interesting to note that out of the 328 schools studied, 73.7% or 242 schools were in the provinces, while 52 schools or 15.8% were from the urban areas. Maralit explained,

"While there is no definite target percentage of rural-urban classification of beneficiary schools, the project's goal is to provide wider IT access not only in urban areas but, more so, to introduce IT to our countryside, recognizing its role as a catalyst to national development."

PCPS at a glance

School Coverage





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> "Hindi na kami pahuhuling
> makisalamuha sa lipunan,
> Bagkus ay taas-noong makibaka sa
> masalimuot na kabihasnan."
>
> Kiamba Nat'l HS, Saranggani

See Story Page 5

SPECIAL REPORT

PCs FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN INSTEAD OF WATCHING IT HAPPEN

Roxas: Nationwide computer distribution to bridge digital divide

The government's program to bridge the digital divide between the public and private schools all over the country got another boost with the recent approval by the Japanese government of a P584-million grant for the second phase of the successful PCs for Public High School Project spearheaded by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

This time, DTI has expanded its coverage to include local government units.

"Our government also recognizes the local government units' need to be in the mainstream of IT development," Roxas said citing R.A. 8792 or the eCommerce Act of 2000 which mandates the e-commerce readiness of all government agencies. Thus Roxas negotiated that part of the grant be allotted for local governments so "they too can utilize IT in upgrading their capabilities for local governance and in the delivery of their services."

"The LGUs can utilize the computer technologies in automating their key administrative systems such as business registration and licensing, real property, tax administration, treasury operations and management information," Roxas said. Only 170 of the close to 1,500 LGUs have access to computer technologies under existing government computerization programs for LGUS, Roxas cited.

"We have to keep on investing on IT. The continuous development and upgrading of our human resources is the key in our ability to maintain our competitiveness in a knowledge economy," Roxas said.

And, through DTI's PCP project, the Philippine public school system had steadily been gaining inroads.

"With the second phase of this project, an additional 200,000 public high school students will be given basic training in information and communications technology," Roxas said. "This will certainly boost the Philippines' ICT capacity and we expect that its impact will be felt within the immediate future in terms of producing more public school students who are equipped with sufficient computer skills," he said.

"The PCPS2 aims to build on the success of the PCPS1 by further reducing the computer backlog in public high schools," Roxas said. "While the first phase of the project expanded IT access in secondary schools from 28% to 54%, about 2,345 public high schools still remain without access to computer technologies," he said. About 25% have access to electricity, and are thus ready for the introduction of IT technologies.

"In ARMM region alone, there are still close to 70 high schools without facilities for computer education," Roxas cited. Furthermore, Roxas said there is a need to revisit those schools which have received computers under the 1997 computerization program of the Department of Education as these facilities may have to be upgraded. Meanwhile, schools with large student population will have to be given additional facilities to improve the student-to-computer ratio.

"Since we started this project, many schools have expressed interest to become part of the program, and their communities have pledged to provide the needed facilities and resources to support and sustain the project," Roxas said.

Under the PCPS 2, another 10,000 computers will be distributed to 900 public high schools and 250 municipalities. In addition to the 200,000 students, another 18,900 teachers will be trained on IT-based education while 1,250 municipal employees will eb trained on automation of LGU administrative systems.

Each of the recipient schools of PCPS 2 will receive 10 personal computers equipped with essential computer peripherals. Each municipality will have four personal computers, a printer and a server.

"We have to sustain the efforts laid by the PCPS project and build on its gains to concretize the country's vision of further developing our IT human resources and making IT as the country's engine of growth in the new economy," Roxas said.

"And we are very grateful that the government of Japan has chosen our PCPS project as part of its continuing initiative to close the digital divide between developed and developing nations," Roxas said.

Secretary Mar Roxas stresses the importance of Information Technology to students of Ramon Magsaysay High School in Manila during the turnover ceremonies for the school's computer laboratory.

Students of Pilot Opportunity School of Fisheries in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi hones their IT skills via the computers provided to their school through DTI's Personal Computers for Public Schools (PCPS) project.

Keeping competitive edge in the knowledge economy

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Japanese Funding

NPGA: Aid for Structural Adjustment

Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid for Economic Structural Adjustment Support (NPGA) Fund is the principal funder of PCPS.

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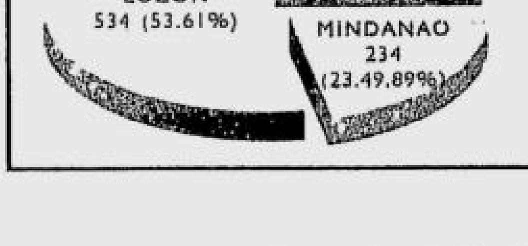
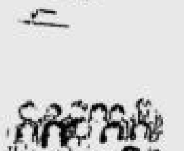
PCPS at a glance

School Coverage





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PCPS beneficiary schools make waves in CyberFair 2003 Awards

Antique is in Panay Island, 45 minutes by air from Manila to Iloilo and two hours by bus from there.

Unlike Boracay in neighboring Aklan, it is not yet a byword in national tourism. Let alone international.

But thanks to PCPS and a talented group of seven seniors and two juniors from the Special Science Class of Antique National School (ANS), it could in fact be on-line to the cyberstream of global tourism, as Antique is posted in the information highway via the award-winning website.

ANS clinched the Local Attractions Award for its project entitled "Antique's Treasures" (http://antiquehigh.cyberfair.ph).

Together with ANS, Zamboanga City High School (ZCHS-Main) also won at the recently concluded Philippine Schools CyberFair 2003 Awards held at Traders Hotel in Manila.

The two schools were among the 1,000 beneficiary schools of the Personal Computers for Public Schools (PCPS) Project of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Antique's treasures showcased such natural and manmade attractions of the province as Cresta de Gallo Island, Lolita Falls, and the Roman-Hispano

Catholic church.

"The main aim of this website is to help uplift the local tourism industry and to encourage the members of the community, particularly the youth, to be more aware of what we have and be vigilant in protecting our resources," ANS web page design leader Jehu Calubiran said.

The Project, he said, filled them with "a yearning to know and discover about the different natural resources and wealth of our beloved Antique. We learned to love what is ours, in all of its beauty and splendor."

On the other hand, ZCHS-Main took the second spot in the Local Leaders Award for their web site project "Zamboanga Leaders Then... & Now..." (http://www.goecities.com/zchscyberfair) that featured the personal profiles, accomplished projects and political struggles of the mayors of Zamboanga City in Zamboanga del Sur, from the early part of the 20th century when the American Colonial Government started making the transition towards the Philippine Commonwealth Government up to the Estrada Administration, who molded the city into what it is now.

The web site is aimed at giving students, professionals and historians a clear picture of Zamboanga City's development through the leadership that its mayors have provided over the years. For other Zamboangueños living abroad, it has become the portal to connect with their roots and reminisce how the city was when they were still there.

"In the progression of making this project, we discovered a lot of things. We were surprised that the first appointive mayor of Zamboanga was actually the grandfather of our dearest Principal Mrs. Eloisa B. Ruste. He was of a German-American descent, which accounts for the unusual color of the eyes of Mrs. Ruste and her siblings," ZCHS-Main web design team member

Sherry Ann Villarosa said.

Upon announcement of this year's CyberFair, both schools selected a set of students to apply what they learned by designing a website for their chosen category. ANS completed their project by February 28, 2003 while ZCHS-Main finished theirs on February 27, 2003. This was the first time for both schools to enter the contest.

"Your students' achievement proves that schools like yours can very well compete with and outshine other public schools in ICT-related projects such as producing outstanding web sites that feature the interesting things about your community. I am also proud to note that the computer laboratory brought to your schools through the PCPS project played a significant role in your schools' and students' success," said DTI Secretary Mar Roxas as he extended his congratulations to the principals of the winning schools.

Winners of the 2003 Philippine Schools CyberFair Awards at the Traders Hotel in Manila pose with CyberFair officials, sponsors and project officers.

PCPS: Partnership in IT skills development

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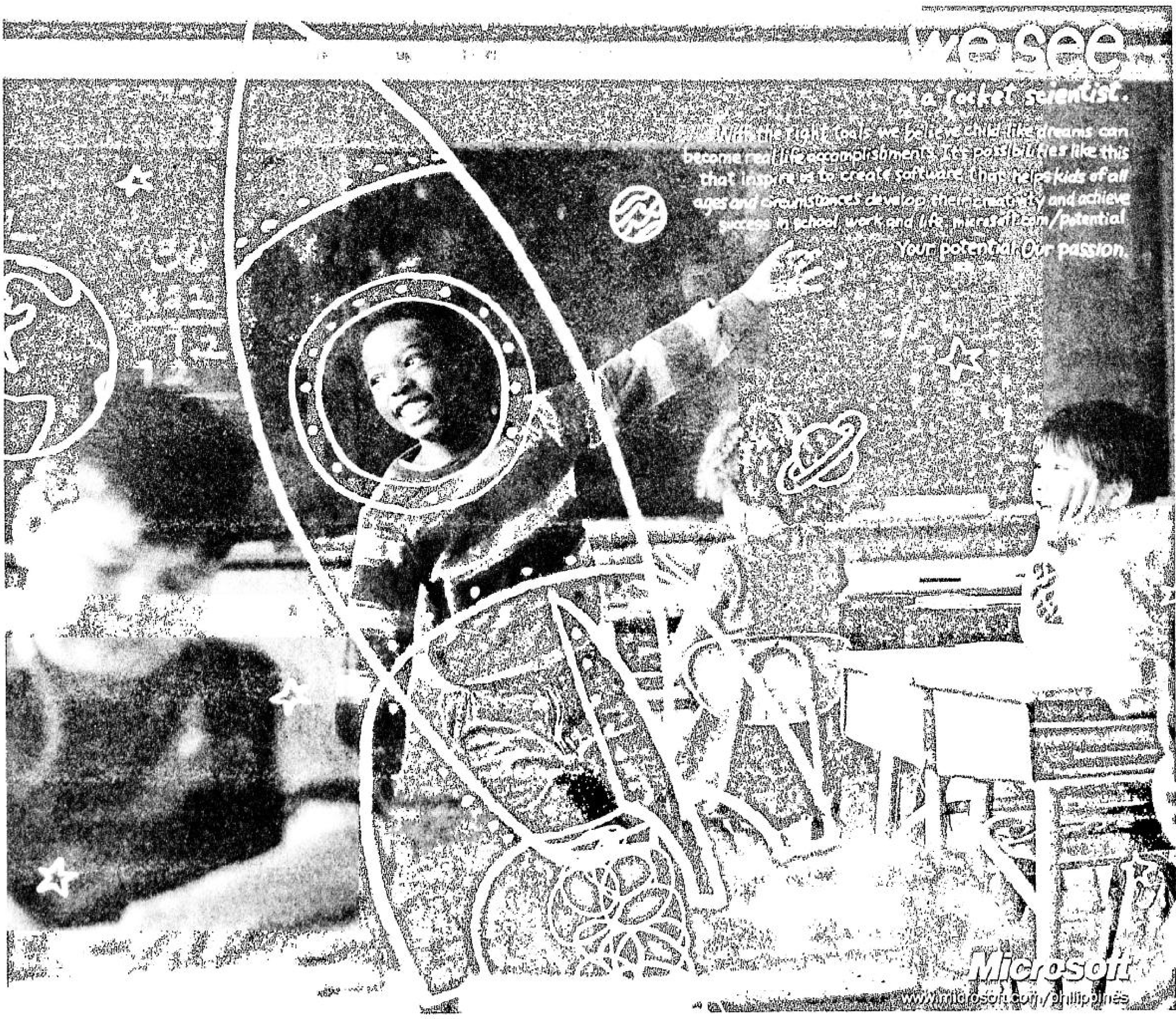

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Intel® Teach to the Future program maximizes gains of PCPS

The challenges of the Knowledge Economy – where technology and information are the key factors of production – are inescapable; hence, we have to be equipped to face them. This, in essence, is the vision behind such projects as the PCs for Public Schools (PCPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). To achieve this, DTI works with government and private agencies in strengthening information and communication technology (ICT) investments in human resource development.

Consistent with DTI's objective of creating an ICT culture among students, Intel Technology Philippines, Inc. implements Intel® Teach to the Future Program (ITFP) in the country to develop better technical skills among Filipino youth with the use of ICT tools; enabling these future "knowledge workers" to become globally competitive and ready to meet the demands of the times.

Training IT skills trainers well

The highly-successful ITFP is the main teacher training component of PCPS and other government computerization programs, such as the 1996 and 1999 Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS) computerization programs. This project aims to train teachers on how to effectively integrate the use of technology in the classroom.

The Intel® program focuses on guiding teachers on how, when and where to incorporate technology tools and resources in their lesson plans for increased student participation and better instruction.

A global effort by Intel Corporation, ITFP is implemented in the country by Intel Technology Philippines, Inc. in cooperation with the Department of Education (DepEd) Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) and the University of the Philippines National Institute for Science and Math Education Development (UP NISMED). The program is available to all teachers from various private and public schools with computer facilities across 17 regions nationwide.

Fundamentally, the Intel® program provides a whole spectrum of interventions that holistically streamline the improvement of the quality of education in the Philippines. The project is part of the Intel® Innovation in Education initiative, a collaboration with educators in communities around the world to improve the quality of math, science and engineering education. Intel provides commitments of time, programs and resources to help students realize their full potential.

Milestones

Intel® Teach to the Future has produced roughly 35,000 teacher graduates since its institution in the country in 2001; about 19,400 of which are teachers of PCPS recipient schools.

At the close of 2002, the Intel® program has trained 22,498 teachers, 12.49% percent higher than the targeted 20,000. Adding the 2001total of 10,198 to the new graduates this year of over 2,500 teachers, the program is close to hitting the 35,000 mark. These educators are now making thousands of Filipino students not only more technologically adept but also more attentive and participative in classroom activities.

"After finishing the program, we've realized the impact of computer technology in the classroom in terms of what it can do to enhance instruction. Digital learning resources do not attempt to replace traditional learning method but instead complements it, making teaching more lively and informative," says Frederick Zaide of Pedro Guevarra Memorial High School in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, an Intel® Teach to the Future regional trainer. Zaide explains that gaining IT knowledge and its effective use in instruction empower teachers to make them more creative in devising better lesson plans, instructional materials and revitalizing student learning.

"Students are getting more and more visual these days, and if we teachers don't know how to grab their attention through interesting teaching aids, we cannot successfully send our message across," opines Zaide.

This year marks the beginning of Intel® Teach to the Future's evolution from a teacher professional development program to a model for ICT integration that covers various academic components such as policies and curriculum development, school management and infrastructure improvement. Evidently, this direction runs parallel with the country's overall objective of developing a strong ICT awareness and competency among Filipinos.

About The Special Report

This report was conceptualized by Communications Linkages, Inc as a vehicle for keeping the public informed of the good things happening around us.

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Jeffrey Beltran Constantino
Project Director, Special Reports

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Computers Change Lives in Countryside

Mar Roxas reaps praise for PCPS computer literacy project

"In many schools, they draw the computer and they tell the children, this is the keyboard, and this is the hard disk, this is the screen, and this is what happens. But these children have no sense at all of how that computer is going to change their lives, of how the electronic or the new economy is going to change their lives".

That was Sec. Mar Roxas describing to a Rotary District meeting the lamentable lack of IT facilities in public high schools.

At that time, only 1,694 out of 3,956 public high schools had computer labs, mostly supplied by the Department of Education or the Department of Science and Technology.

In little over a year's time, PCPS would deploy close to 1,000 computer labs to as many public high schools, mainly in the far-flung areas. At the completion of the Project's first phase, the computer backlog was almost cut-in-half. The second phase should bring DTI closer to wiping out the backlog.

Sec. Roxas' fear for the youth in the IT future must be allayed by now. The stream of praise and appreciation coming from the beneficiaries of PCPS assures Secretary Roxas that more of the country's public high school students are now equipped with the basics for life in the new and electronic economy.

While hardly exhaustive considering the numerous responses from PCPS beneficiaries, the following quotes and stories represent the overall reaction to PCPS:

Margie B. Ete, a senior at the San Roque National High School in Bulusan, Sorsogon and Erwin Querit of Ilocos Sur National High School in Vigan, had never touched a computer, until the computer laboratories were installed by PCPS.

"Wala pa akong masyadong alam at kinabahan ako kasi baka yung mga classmates ko na may alam na sa computer ay pagtatawanan ako," Erwin recalls his first encounter with computers. "Natatakot din ako na baka bumagsak sa klase kasi hindi naman ako masyadong magaling. Pero nung tumagal ay nasanay na rin ako."

His classmate, Almer Ramos agrees. "Mas maraming estudyante ang natutong mag- computer," she says adding that she and her classmates are now adept at using basic Microsoft software like MS Word, Excel and Power Point.

Armed with basic computer skills, Margie, Erwin and Almer are more confident, determined to enter college, find jobs and eventually help support their families.

"Ito'y magandang paghahanda sa pagpasok ko sa college dahil advantage ito kung sa high school pa lang, alam mo na ang paggamit ng computer," Erwin says. "Gusto ko pong lumawak pa ang kaalaman ko sa computer." Like Erwin, Almer hopes to pursue a career in the field of computers.

Anselmo Landino teaches practical arts like woodworking, drawing and basic electricity at Ilocos Sur National High School. Now he also teaches basic computer to about 200 students. "With the integration of computers into the curriculum, the students acquire skills they can use in other activities, like doing their projects in communication arts and research," he says.

"We also use them in preparing our lesson plans, test questions, reports, and computing grades," Landino says, making our tasks a bit lighter.

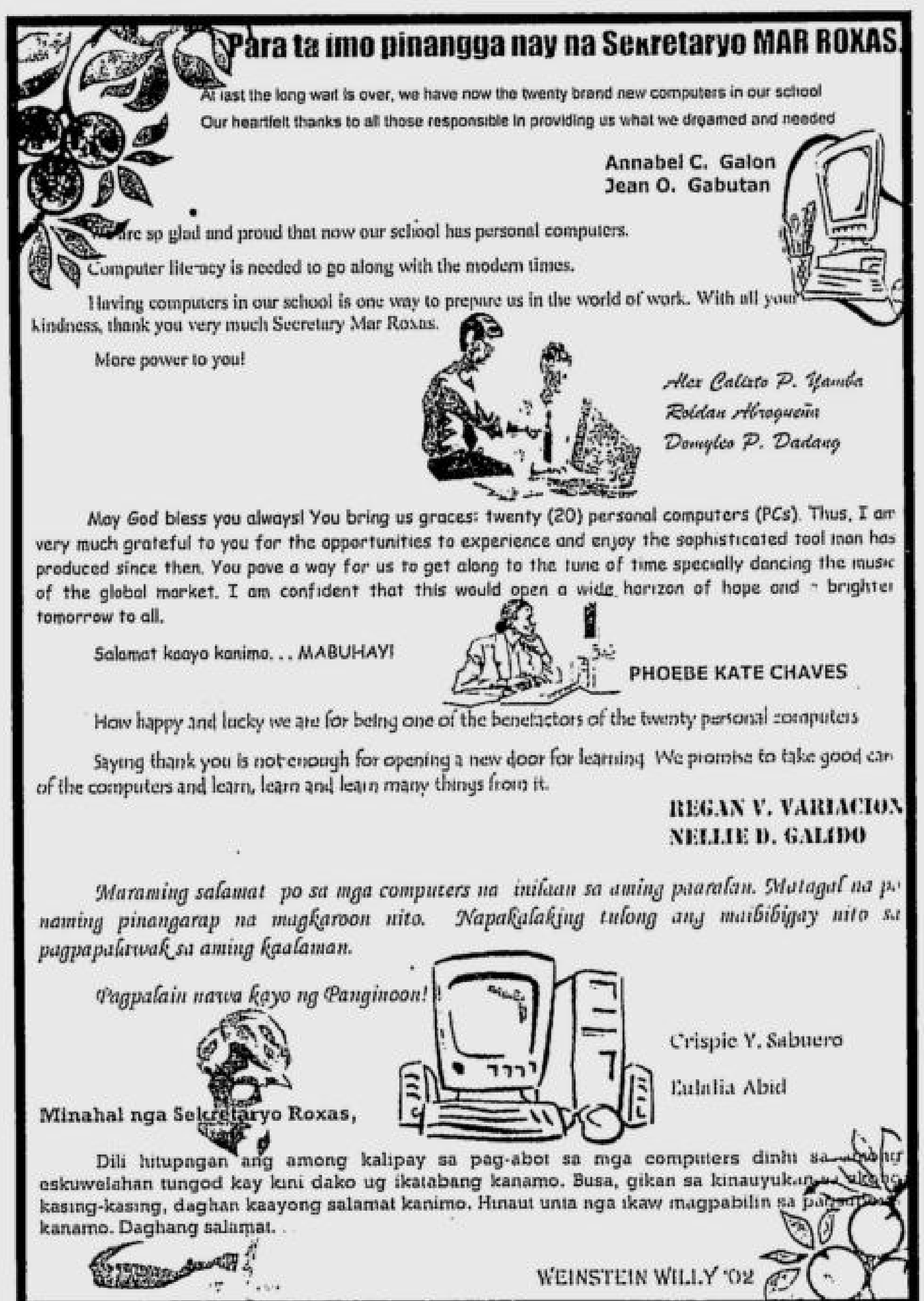
Victor Alejandrino teaches math and basic computer education at Nagsupotan National High School in San Juan, Ilocos Sur. With the arrival of the new units through DTI's PCPS project, we now have access to more updated software Alejandrino recalls. "Mas mabilis na, mas maganda pa ang features ng mga bagong dating na units. Kaya nagpapasalamat kami sa DTI," Alejandrino adds.

Indeed, the computer labs distributed nationwide – from the Sabtang National School of Fisheries in Batanes up North to the Tawi-Tawi Pilot Opportunity School of Fisheries (TPOSF) down South – signalled the beginning of the new e-life for both the teachers and their students.

Through an e-mail, Peachy Munoz wrote Roxas: "My mother and I would like to thank you for the computer package you and your department gave to the Catmon National High School in our municipality of Camalig, Albay. The computer package will really be a big help to the students and the faculty of our national high school."

"The students and the whole community are very thankful for your concern," Gloria B. Jamisola, principal of San Roque High School in Mabini, Bohol wrote Roxas. "With the coming of the computers, we increased enrollment by 15%. We have 896 students at present who are direct beneficiaries of this project," she said.

Secretary Roxas interacts with the students of Dasmariñas Congressional High School in Cavite, one of the beneficiaries of the PCPS project.



Para ta imo pinangga nay na Sekretaryo MAR ROXAS

At last the long wait is over, we have now the twenty brand new computers in our school
Our heartfelt thanks to all those responsible in providing us what we dreamed and needed

Annabel C. Galon
Jean O. Gabutan

[illegible]re so glad and proud that now our school has personal computers.

Computer literacy is needed to go along with the modern times.

Having computers in our school is one way to prepare us in the world of work. With all your kindness, thank you very much Secretary Mar Roxas.

More power to you!

Alex Calixto P. Yamba
Roldan Abrogueña
Domylco P. Dadang

May God bless you always! You bring us graces: twenty (20) personal computers (PCs). Thus, I am very much grateful to you for the opportunities to experience and enjoy the sophisticated tool man has produced since then. You pave a way for us to get along to the tune of time specially dancing the music of the global market. I am confident that this would open a wide horizon of hope and a brighter tomorrow to all.

Salamat kaayo kanimo. . . MABUHAY!

PHOEBE KATE CHAVES

How happy and lucky we are for being one of the benefactors of the twenty personal computers

Saying thank you is not enough for opening a new door for learning. We promise to take good care of the computers and learn, learn and learn many things from it.

REGAN V. VARIACION
NELLIE D. GALIDO

Maraming salamat po sa mga computers na inilaan sa aming paaralan. Matagal na po naming pinangarap na magkaroon nito. Napakalaking tulong ang maibibigay nito sa pagpapalawak sa aming kaalaman.

Pagpalain nawa kayo ng Panginoon!

Crispie Y. Sabuero
Eulalia Abid

Minahal nga Sekretaryo Roxas,

Dili hitupngan ang among kalipay sa pag-abot sa mga computers dinhi sa [illegible] eskuwelahan tungod kay kini dako ug ikatabang kanamo. Busa, gikan sa kinauyukan [illegible] kasing-kasing, daghan kaayong salamat kanimo. Hinaut unta nga ikaw magpabilin sa [illegible] kanamo. Daghang salamat.

WEINSTEIN WILLY '02

Expressing gratitude in the most apt language: computer graphics from the neo-computer literate of Sagay National High School in Camiguin Island.

From Piddig, Ilocos Norte, Don Salustiano Aquino Memorial National High School head teacher Rizalina T. Manzano assured Roxas that "the school had already conducted an intensive in-service training to all teachers and personnel on the basic skills in computer operation."

"Recently, one teacher attended the "Intel Teach to the Future" training and we are now in the process of conducting the school-based seminar for all the teachers. This school year, more computer classes were also organized for the students," Manzano reported.

Aside from the private sector support, the program also drew support from local officials.

Southern Leyte Governor Rosette Lerias wrote Roxas: "We have funded the construction of classrooms and provided airconditioned rooms."

Indeed the success of the program goes beyond DTI. "The parents and respective PTAs in our schools are actually involved in the maintenance of the computers," Tarlac City Mayor Genaro M. Mendoza reported to Roxas, referring to the city's Alvendia Aguso and San Manuel High Schools which received PCPS packages. "In addition to this, we will schedule another training on preventive maintenance for the teachers and the students. The needed financial assistance for electric consumption will also be presented to the local school board," the mayor added.

Student leader Regan V. Variacion of Sagay National High School in Sagay, Camiguin was more profuse in thanking Sec. Roxas for equipping them with gadgets needed to face "the challenges in today's robotic world."

"No words are enough to let you know how grateful we are for being given favorable consideration and timely opportunity to become useful and productive elements in the global community. You have opened a path for us to engage in a journey wheeled by a fast advancing technology," said Variacion, who is the school's student body council president.

With Variacion's letter is a computer-designed collage where 11 Sagay National High School students collectively expressed their gratitude to Roxas for giving the opportunity "to experience and enjoy the sophisticated tool man has produced." "Maraming salamat po sa mga computers na inilaan sa aming paaralan. Matagal na po naming pinangarap na magkaroon nito.

You have opened a path for us to engage in a journey wheeled by a fast advancing technology," said Variacion, who is the school's student body council president.

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Thanking the government for its efforts to spread computer literacy came in various forms. The students of Kiamba National High School in Saranggani Province chose to be a bit poetic.

"Probinsya ng Saranggani kami ngayon ay nagdiriwang
Sa mga biyayang ipinagkaloob mo sa mga paaralang pamppamahalaan.
Dagdag sa pag-unlad naming malinang ang kaisipan,
Pantay-pantay na talino batang-bukid o tagalungsod man……

"Datapwa't higit kailanman aming pinapasalamatan,
Department of Trade and Industry at ang kanyang mga tauhan
Sa inyong tiyaga't pagsisikap, mag-aaral ay matulungan
Pag-aambag ng computer na aming pag-aaralan.
Hindi na kami pahuhuling makisalamuha sa lipunan,
Bagkus ay taas-noong makibaka sa masalimuot na kabihasnan."

Globe Telecom and its wholly-owned subsidiary Isla Communications Co. share the government's commitment in carrying out wide-ranging social impact projects.

Using its Globelines Dial-up Internet service, Globe is involved in projects to wire public schools nationwide.

Globe/Isla's involvement in many social responsibility programs underscores its commitment in playing an active role in communities. It acknowledges the importance of involving the company - management and employees - in reassuring families that there is someone willing to bring them opportunities. It recognizes the fact that in helping communities in their well-being, Globe invests in their future.

Globelines
DIAL-UP INTERNET

Powered by:

GLOBE TELECOM

DTI Builds Partnerships for Computer Literacy

Breaking through economic and socio-cultural barriers to bring hope and inspiration to the youth. This is the concept behind the Personal Computers for Public Schools (PCPS) Projects, which gives equal access to IT education for the less privileged.

For this reason alone, partnerships were easily forged between the private sector and the government to ensure the effective implementation of the Project.

The Department of Education identified the recipient schools, prescribed the computer education curriculum and facilitated the implementation of computer training for teachers. It facilitates the monitoring and supervision of the implementation of the project.

The Department of Science and Technology, on the other hand, developed and provided Science and Math coursewares to recipient schools and assisted DepEd in implementing the teachers training. The National Computer Center, an attached agency, provided technical assistance in the public tender for the project.

From Intel Philippines, a teacher training package was secured under its *Teach to the Future Program*. This provided free training for 1,000 public school teachers on the use of computer technology as tool for teaching Science and Math, who will then re-echo what they learned to another 20 teachers each.

Microsoft extended a software assistance package by providing substantial discounts on the software requirements of the project.

DTI also partnered with a group of private foundations, industry associations and IT companies led by League of Corporate Foundations, Philippine Business for Social Progress, Makati Business Club.

Later on, this private sector group expanded its membership and formed a consortium called ConnectEd.Ph, which currently provides networked computer laboratories to public schools. In support to the PCPS, the consortium pledged to provide interconnectivity to select PCPS schools by cabling the PCs, providing and/or subsidizing telephone and internet facilities and subscription and extending additional computer training programs for teachers and students.

More recently, STI joined the partnership to offer additional IT training for both teachers and students. Globe also joined to provide networking and internet facilities to some schools.